

## ***Part 1: Choosing Your Speech Topic***

Hello and Welcome! And thank you for joining me for the 4-H Public Speaking Series *When All is Said and Done* the first of six podcasts, as you prepare to speak in the 4-H program.

Giving a speech starts long before standing in front of an audience. That first step is deciding what to use as a topic. We're going to talk today about how to prepare you for your speech and demonstration by first of all, by selecting a stellar topic.

Where do you start? Well you want to start with yourself in selecting a topic. You want to think about what are some things that are interesting to you, they might be things that you already know about things that you already experienced or a special hobby or interest that really fascinates you, an exciting place that you've visited.

Next, you'll want to write down your ideas. Start by making a list of all the things that interest you. It really helps to see things in writing. Sometimes it's fun to take each of the things you've listed and see what other kinds of things they remind you of.

You want to use other people as you brainstorm your ideas, talk with a friend or a family member about the things that you're interested in your beliefs some experiences and ideas. Make sure you have a pencil and paper handy so you can jot down what you and your partner have come up with. A family vacation might be the topic of conversation in your family and you might be able to help by using it as a speech topic to explore the places that you want to go.

You could use the internet or don't underestimate a visit to the library. You might learn about the Aztecs or the Egyptians or a silly talent on Utube might be able to spark your imagination and take you in a new direction.

Here are the last few things you want to consider about picking your topic. First of all narrow it down. You don't want to talk about all of Disney World there is too much to explore. Instead choose the best places to stay or the best deals for your money at Disney World. Narrowing you topic down will help make it easier for you to research and for your audience to listen to.

Think about your audience. Who is your audience? Is it the judge, 4-H members? What age are they? Are they younger members or older members? Will they be able to understand your topic? Are you comfortable talking about this topic with the people in the room? How are you going to help make the speech meaningful for your audience? Will they be comfortable hearing about this for 3, 5 or however long you're going to talk about it?

Which bring me to my last piece of advice. How much time do you have? It's frustrating to run out of time before you can finish delivering your speech. Trying to fit a long speech into a short time is like trying to fit your foot in a shoe that is too small. You might be able to do it but you are going to feel uncomfortable.

*When All is Said and Done* is a podcast of the Sheboygan County UW-Extension and 4-H Youth Development Program. Thank you for listening and helping to make the best better. Stay tuned for future *When All Is Said and Done* podcasts regarding organizing your speech, writing and delivering introductions and conclusion, getting ready for the big day and sifting through judges' comments.

We wish you the best of luck as a 4-H member, leader and lifetime learner.