Public Speaking Guidelines
Sub-Regional Competition

The following protocol will be used for implementing the Public Speaking competitive event at the sub-regional or multi-county level:

- Four sub regional clusters (geographically located) will be used to host the activity for grades 4-8.
- Host counties are divided by alphabetical order and will rotate annually, as decided within the cluster. For the 2013 Program Year, we will continue to follow alphabetical rotation system from previous year.
- The county chairing the event will make the agent assignments, secure volunteers, judges, facilitators and work collaboratively with counties to determine the date and time for the competition. A representative or host county will notify Regional Office of competition dates and submit county participation information from the sub regional cluster.
- Subject is open to the discretion of the speaker.
- Judging panels for the competition will consist of two agents and one volunteer.
- Each room will have a facilitator (Agent) and a monitor for doors. Room facilitators (Agent) will hold an orientation with judges prior to the contest to provide an overview, discuss the process and review the score card. The training information is listed on the back of the score card. It is recommended that judges be on site 15 minutes prior to the contest for training/orientation. The training should not take place in the room in which the contest is being conducted — if contestants and parents are in the room. Use another area for the briefing.
- Check attendance. Participants will receive a number indicating the order in which they will give their speeches. This should be a randomized process.
- The Regional Office will supply the host county with the needed registration forms, awards and ribbons. It is highly recommended that each sub regional cluster have a group awards program with winners from each grade.
- Items needed for contest: calculators, pencils, paper, score cards, and stop watch.
- Participants will be allowed to use note cards but no visuals.
- Speech lengths: 4th grade is 1-2 minutes; 5th grade is 2-3 minutes; 6th grade is 3-4 minutes; 7th & 8th grades is 4-5 minutes. To break a tie use the “Use of Language” score from the score card.
- Speech penalties include a 5 point deduction for being under the minimum time. One point should be deducted for every 30 seconds the speech exceeds maximum time limit additional scoring guidelines may be found on back of the public speaking guidelines.