

# NJAA PREPARED PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

Communication is a vital element in our society -- today more than ever before. The ability to communicate effectively is not only an art; it can mean the difference between success, mediocrity, or failure.

In an effort to foster the development of speaking skills among NJAA members, the National Junior Angus Association and the Events & Junior Activities Department of the American Angus Association will co-sponsor a public speaking contest during the National Junior Angus Show.

## Awards

Prizes will be presented to the top three contestants in each age division (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place).

### **Special Awards - Senior Division Only**

The *Angus Journal* will award the top three placing contestants of the senior division with the following college scholarships: 1<sup>st</sup> - \$1,000; 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$750; 3<sup>rd</sup> - \$500.

## Eligibility of Contestants

1. Contestants must be Junior, Regular, or Life Members of the American Angus Association.
2. This contest is available to the following age divisions, as of Jan. 1 of the current year: Junior A (8-10), Junior B (11-13), Intermediate A (14-15), Intermediate B (16-17) and Senior (18-20). Prizes will be awarded in each division (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place).
3. Multiple entries from a state shall be allowed during this event's formative years. In time, each state may be eligible to designate only one representative to the contest.
4. Contestants will be required to submit a title page and outline of their speech at contest check – in.
5. The outline must be type-written, double spaced and a result of the contestant's own efforts. An outline should not be PowerPoint slides, or the entire speech. The outline is a general plan of what the contestant will present in the final speech. The title page must include the title of the speech and the speaker's name, address, member code, birth date, age as of January 1.

## The Speech

1. Division Topics  
The junior, intermediate and senior division topic can be any subject pertaining to Angus cattle or the beef industry. Angus influence is encouraged but exploration of, and insight into, any and all phases of the beef industry is allowed. Current affairs, policies and trends provide good topics.
2. ***New for 2024*** – the intermediate and senior divisions will be asked to provide references with their speeches. Points will be deducted if no references are listed.
  - Two references are required for all intermediate division speeches.
  - Four references are required for all speech division speeches.
3. Each speech in the junior division will be 4-6 minutes in length, the intermediate division will be 5-7 minutes and senior division shall be between 6-8 minutes in length.

Deductions of a half a point per ten seconds will be made from the score by each judge for speeches under or over the specified length. A 1-minute warning will be given by event officials.

4. The speech must be the result of the contestant's own efforts and cannot have been presented for competition at a previous National Junior Angus Show.
5. Each contestant will be allowed up to five minutes to answer questions from the judges.

6. Audience members are allowed in the contest room. However, we ask that audience members enter before the contestant begins their speech. No entry allowed once the speech begins.
7. The room will be setup the following way: there will be seating for audience members, a table for the three judges, then the contestant should stand in front of the audience and judge's table. Thus, the order will be audience, judges table, with the judge's back to the audience, and the contestant standing at the front of the room facing both the judges, and audience members.

### Method of Judging

1. The NJAA Board and the Events and Education Department will be in charge of the contest. Three competent and impartial judges will be selected to evaluate the contestants' efforts.
2. Speaking order will be determined prior to the contest and posted near the show office.
3. Contestants will be permitted to use notes. Excessive reference to notes, however, may result in scoring deductions. The use of visual aids (charts, signs, slides, etc.) is not allowed.
4. Judges will receive copies of the outline at judge orientation, so the general idea of the speech may be reviewed before actual presentation.
5. The judges will ask questions after each speech. Contestants will be graded on their ability to respond effectively.
6. The contestant will be scored on the basis of 50 points with 20% in organization and content, 20% in language and delivery, 20% in presentation, 20% in total effectiveness, and 20% in response to questions.

Points will be deducted for the following:

No references listed	-2 points
No outline turned in	-5 points

7. Upon completion of all speeches each judge shall total his/her score of the manuscript and presentation for each speaker. Contest officials will inform the judges if any points need to be deducted for time violations and then the judges will rank the contestants in numerical order on the basis of each judge's scores. (Highest score first, lowest score last.)

The rankings (not the score) of the three judges shall be added for each speaker, and the final placings determined by the lowest composite rankings. Actual scores will be used only to break ties. In the event the participants are still tied, they shall be named co-winners and two awards will be given for that placing and none given for the following placing.

**Example of a Title Page:**

*The title page must include the title of the speech and the speaker's name, address, member code, birth date, age as of January 1. See below example.*

Speech Title: When George Grant Brought the First Angus Bulls to America  
Andy Angus  
3201 Frederick Ave., Saint Joseph, MO 64506  
1883150  
5/17/1873  
Age as of January 1 – 148 years

**Example of an Outline:**

*The outline must be type-written, double spaced and a result of the contestant's own efforts. An outline should not be PowerPoint slides, or the entire speech, type written. The outline is a general plan of what the contestant will present in the final speech. See below sample.*

**Sample Outline:**

Speech Title: The benefit of becoming a NJAA member.

I. Introduction

II. Body

A. Benefits of being a member.

a. Leadership opportunities

b. Networking opportunities

c. Event and traveling opportunities

B. Testimonial

a. Why I became a member

b. Examples of benefits I have received by becoming a NJAA member.

III. Conclusion

IV. References