

Kentucky 4-H Written Communication Contest

Informational Packet

The Kentucky 4-H Written Communications Contest is an opportunity for young writers to showcase their talents and develop and build upon essential life skills.

This packet includes the contest rules, categories, resources, example cover page, and statement of authenticity.

General Contest Rules and Resources

1. Each county may submit two junior- and two senior-level entries per category.
2. Each category will have a Junior and Senior class. The age of a young person participating in 4-H is the age they are on January 1st of the current program year. Junior level members are ages 9-13, and senior level members are ages 14-18.
3. Each writing piece must be original. If there is a question, the participant will be disqualified. A statement of authenticity must be completed by the 4-H member and included with the entry. The statement of authenticity is included in this informational packet.
4. Each entry must include a cover page with the 4-Her's category, age division (Junior or Senior), first and last name, and county. The 4-Her's last name must be included on every page.
5. Entries that do not include a cover page and statement of authenticity will not be judged at the state level and will be disqualified.
6. All entries must be submitted by the county Extension office on 4-H Online by **February 1st**. All documents must be uploaded through the 4-H Online system by the county Extension office as one PDF document (the PDF document should include the cover page, entry submission, and statement of authenticity). The exception is Infographic entries – for Infographic entries, the cover page and statement of authenticity can be submitted as one PDF document and the Infographic entry can be submitted as a PDF or JPG file. Entries can be submitted on 4-H Online between December 1st – February 1st by the county Extension office.
7. Table 1 includes a list of the categories and notes specific requirements for certain categories (each category includes a Junior and Senior class).
8. Formatting requirements for entries: Use Calibri or Times New Roman font, set the font size to 12, and ensure the text is double-spaced (except for song and infographic entries).
 - a. Songs: single-space the text within verses, choruses, and bridges; double-spaced between each verse, chorus, and bridge. This will help keep the song section clear and easy to read.
 - b. Infographics: see Infographics Information and Rules Section (see page 3 of this packet)
9. Champions will be showcased at the Kentucky State Fair.



Table 1: Categories

Infographic
Original Monologue
Poetry: 3 line minimum; 25 line maximum
Press Release: Maximum of 1,000 words
Public Service Announcement
Songwriting
<i>What 4-H Means to Me</i> Essay: Minimum of 500 words

Resources

These resources are available for purchase on the National 4-H website.

General Communications Resources

- Communications Curriculum – Modules 1, 2, and 3
- The Writer in You Project Guide

Specific Activities for Various Contest Categories

Monologue

The Magic of Monologue Activity is available in National 4-H Council’s Theatre Arts Level 1 Curriculum (available for purchase on the National 4-H website).

Poetry

The Poet in You Activity is available in The Writer in You Project Guide

Press Release and Public Service Announcement

Extra! Extra! Activity is available in the National 4-H Council’s Communication Curriculum Module 2 (available for purchase on the National 4-H website).

Songwriting

Compose Your Song Activity is available in the National 4-H Council’s Communications Curriculum Module 1



Infographic Contest Rules and Information

An infographic is a picture that shows information or data in a way that's easy to understand quickly. It uses images, charts, graphs, and just a little bit of text to make the message clear.

How to Make a Great Infographic

1. **Pick a Topic:** Choose a topic you like.
2. **Find Information:** Gather important facts and data. Make sure your sources are reliable. Add a reference section at the end of your infographic to list all the sources you used for information.
3. **Plan Your Layout:** Decide how to organize your infographic. Include an introduction, main points, and a conclusion.
4. **Use Visuals:** Add charts, graphs, icons, and pictures to show your data. Keep it simple and tidy.
5. **Choose Colors:** Pick a few colors that look good together and are easy to read.
6. **Add Text:** Use short, clear sentences to explain your visuals.
7. **Check Your Work:** Make sure everything is correct and easy to understand.

There are many websites with templates to help you make an infographic, like Canva and Piktochart. You can use these or try other ones.

Infographic Contest Rules

1. See the Kentucky 4-H Written Communication General Contest Rules (all rules apply).
2. The use of templates from websites is permitted.
3. Infographics should be clear and not blurry. A good size for an infographic is typically around 600 to 1000 pixels wide and 1200 to 3000 pixels long.
4. Infographics should be saved and submitted as a PDF or JPG file.

Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

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Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

Sample Cover Page

Category (Infographic, Original Monologue, Poetry, Press Release, Public Service Announcement, Songwriting, or What 4-H Means to Me Essay)

Age Division (Junior or Senior Level)

4-H Member's First and Last Name

County

**Cooperative
Extension Service**

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

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Lexington, KY 40506



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Statement of Authenticity

This is to verify that the piece I entered in the Kentucky 4-H Written Communication Contest is my original work.

I further verify that the piece I entered has never been published and has not been submitted to the 4-H contest before this year.

I give permission for my writing piece:

- to be submitted for judging.
- to be published online and on social media.
- to be displayed at the Kentucky State Fair.

4-H Member Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

