

TJAS Prepared Public Speaking Contest

(updated March 2025)

Communication is a vital element in our society -- today more than ever before. TJAA is proud to offer our members the opportunity to hone this valuable skill and receive useful feedback from a panel of qualified judges. In 2025, Prepared Public Speaking will be a state contest, but is not offered at NJAS.

Awards: Prizes will be presented to the top three contestants in each age division (1st, 2nd and 3rd place)

Eligibility of Contestants:

1. Contestants must be current members of the Texas Junior 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 (1st, 2nd and 3rd place).
3. Contestants will be required to submit a title page and outline of their speech at the contest. 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. 2025 Topic: Anything Angus (angus cattle, people, careers, industry, policy, food, science, current events, history, etc.) Be as creative as you like.
2. Each speech in the junior division will be 4-6 minutes in length, the intermediate and senior divisions will be 5-7 minutes in length.
3. 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 or Texas Junior Angus Show.
5. Each contestant will be allowed up to five minutes to answer questions from the judges.

Judging:

1. 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.
2. The judges will ask questions after each speech. Contestants will be graded on their ability to respond effectively.
3. 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.

No outline turned in (-5 points) ; no references (-2 points)

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, birthdate, age as of January 1. See example below.

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:

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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