

How to Prepare for the FFA Discussion Meet

If you're new to the Discussion Meet, here are some tips for how to prepare for success.

1. **Research Topics** – review the three topics/questions you may be asked to discuss. Use resources on fbmn.org (Minnesota Farm Bureau), fb.org (American Farm Bureau), your own research, your advisor, local farmers and community experts to help you understand the issues and potential solutions for each topic.
2. **Talking Points** – while the discussion should happen without agenda, come up with two or three talking points you feel comfortable initiating and expanding on to help drive the conversation.
3. **Opening Statement** – develop and memorize a 30 second opening statement. Having confidence in how you'll start the competition will allow you to feel at ease through the rest of the competition.
4. **Have Conversations** – ask your peers, county Farm Bureau members or other knowledgeable people in your community to spend time discussing the topics, or other issues with you so you can practice active listening, accurate summarization of the conversation and cooperative behavior.
5. **Have Fun & Learn** – no matter the result of the competition, remember that learning about issues in agriculture and developing an ability to effectively converse with others will ultimately be more valuable than a medal.