

Extemporaneous Speaking Leadership Development Event

The FFA Extemporaneous Public Speaking Leadership Development Event is designed to develop the ability of all FFA members to express themselves on a given subject without having prepared or rehearsed its content in advance. This event gives FFA members an opportunity to formulate their remarks for presentation in a very limited amount of time.

I. GENERAL PLAN

The preliminary LDEs are of local and regional character and are held under the auspices of the FFA unit concerned. These preliminary events culminate in the state LDE finals. All regional LDEs should follow the rules of the State Extemporaneous Speaking LDE.

II. ELIGIBILITY

- A. The state LDE will be limited to participation by one member representing each region who shall have been determined winners in a regional LDE held prior to the state LDE, plus the second individual from the regions that had the first through fourth place individuals at the previous state finals. A chapter can have only one participant at the State Event.
- B. The competition will consist of a preliminary round of 12 contestants and final round of four contestants. Contestants will be divided into two groups for the preliminary round and the top two individuals from each round will advance to the final round.
- C. The state LDE will be open to active chapter members who meet eligibility requirements on page I of the General CDE/LDE Rules and Procedures. When selected, contestants must be active members of chartered FFA chapters in good standing with the State Association. A member representing a state association may participate in the national LDE once.
- D. A contestant must wear Official Dress when competing in the LDE.

III. SUBJECT

Twelve to eighteen topics will be prepared by the event chair and will include at least two from the following categories:

- **Agricultural literacy and advocacy**
 - Example questions: *What are some changes that could be made to the education system to potentially improve the knowledge and understanding of the agriculture industry? How can niche market and conventional agricultural producers come together with one voice?*
- **Current agricultural issues**
 - Example questions: *What are some advantages/disadvantages to marketing produce locally such as farmers markets and local vendors? Should livestock be implanted with a microchip so meat can be traced back to the producer? Why or why not?*

- **Advancing agriculture through agricultural science**
 - Example questions: *How will technology affect the job security of the agriculture labor force in the future? What biotechnology advances will have the greatest impact on production agriculture in the next 50 years?*
- **Current technology uses and applications in agriculture**
 - Example questions: *Should small urban producers be required to operate under the same regulations as larger producers? How has technology advanced safety procedures and mechanisms on the farm? What steps can be taken to further improve farm safety?*
- **Agrimarketing and international agriculture**
 - Example questions: *What international trade relations have changed United States agriculture over the past 50 years? What have we learned for future trade relations? How can immigration be reformed to ensure agriculture maintains a reliable work force?*
- **Food and fiber systems**
 - Example questions: *How can agriculturists help the public discern between marketing propaganda and legitimate healthy food choices? What policies could potentially protect livestock producers from false animal welfare accusations?*

IV. METHOD OF SELECTING WINNER

- A. The appointed LDE chairperson(s) will be in charge of the state CDE.
- B. Contestants will be divided into two groups by the State FFA Coordinator for the preliminary round. They will be assigned to a group and time slot based on their regional qualifying rank. Event coordinators and FFA staff will randomly determine speaking order. The program chairperson shall then introduce each contestant by name only, in order of the competition. A contestant will be permitted to use notes while speaking, but deductions in scoring may be made for this practice if it detracts from the effectiveness of the presentation. Applause shall be withheld until all contestants have spoken. The top two contestants in each group from the first round will advance to the finals.
- C. The selection of topics will be held 30 minutes before the event. The participants will draw three specific topics, selected at random from the pool of 12-18, relating to the industry of agriculture. After selecting the topic they desire to speak on, all three topics will be returned for the next drawing. Participants will be admitted to the preparation room at 15-minute intervals and given exactly 30 minutes for topic selection and preparation.
- D. Reference materials can be provided by the contestant. The materials will be screened by the officials in charge of the event on the following basis:
 - Must be limited to five items.
 - Printed material such as books or magazines.
 - Printed compilations of materials collected from Internet research
 - Participants may have up to 10 minutes to conduct online research. Computers may be provided. Access to email, Dropbox or any prepared materials are prohibited. A room monitor will be the official timekeeper for each contestant's technology time. The use of prepared notes or speeches, even if accessed with technology time, is prohibited and will be grounds for

disqualification.

- To be counted as one item, a notebook or folder of collected materials may contain no more than 100 single-sided pages or 50 double-sided pages numbered consecutively.
 - References should be in original format.
 - There can be no notes or speeches prepared by the participant or by another person for the purpose of use in this event. Cutting and pasting into a Microsoft Word document will be considered prepared notes.
- E. Each speech should be the result of the participant's own effort using approved reference material, which the participant may bring to the preparation room. No other assistance may be provided. Participants must use the uniform note cards provided. Any notes for speaking must be made during the 30-minute preparation period. A participant will be permitted to use notes while speaking, but deductions in scoring may be made for this practice if it detracts from the effectiveness of the presentation.
- F. A list of all possible topics will be given to and reviewed by the judges prior to the beginning of the LDE.
- G. Each speech shall be no less than four or more than six minutes with five minutes additional time allowed for related questions which shall be asked by the judges. The event chairperson shall introduce the contestant by name and region, and the contestant may introduce their speech by title only. Contestants are to be penalized one point per second on each judge's score sheet for being over six minutes or under four minutes. Time commences when the speaker begins talking. Speakers may use a watch to keep a record of their time.
- H. Two timekeepers shall be designated who will record the time used by each contestant while speaking and in answering the judges' questions. Timekeepers will note time under or over and if any deductions should be made. Timekeepers will not notify the contestant of the time elapsed.
- I. At least three competent and impartial persons will be selected to judge the LDE. At least one judge should have an agricultural background.
- J. Prior to the LDE, the judges will be furnished with copies of the rules and scoring rubric.
- G. At the time of the LDE, the judges will be seated in different sections of the room in which the event is held. They will score each contestant upon the delivery of the prepared speech, using the score sheet provided. Contestants may not request that no one be able to watch their presentation. The preliminary round will be closed to the public. The finals round may be open to the public.
- K. Each judge shall formulate and ask questions. Questions shall pertain directly to the speaker's subject. Questions containing two parts should be avoided. Judges will score each contestant on their ability to answer all questions asked by all judges.

- L. When all contestants have finished speaking, each judge will total their score on answers to questions and delivery for each contestant. The timekeeper's record will be used in computing the final score for each contestant.
- M. Contestants shall be ranked in numerical order on basis of final score to be determined by each judge without consultation with each other. The judges' ranking of each contestant then shall be added and the winner will be that contestant whose total of rankings is the lowest. Other placings shall be determined in the same manner (Low point score method of selection.)
- N. Tiebreaker: Ties will be broken based on the greatest number of low ranks. Participants' low ranks will be counted, and the participant with the greatest number of low ranks will be declared the winner. If a tie still exists, then the participants' raw scores will be totaled. The participant with the greatest total of raw points will be declared the winner. If a tie still exists, then the event superintendent will rank the participants' responses to questions. The participant with the greatest number of low ranks from the response to questions will be declared the winner.

V. References

To avoid plagiarism, all participants in the FFA Prepared Public Speaking Leadership Development Event should give credit to others where any direct quotes, phrases or special dates are used in the manuscript.

Extemporaneous Public Speaking LDE Presentation Rubric

Oral Communication					
Examples	Examples are vivid, precise and clearly explained. Examples are original, logical and relevant	Examples are usually concrete, sometimes need clarification. Examples are effective but need more originality or thought.	Examples are abstract or not clearly defined. Examples are sometimes confusing, leaving the listeners with questions.	50	
Speaking without hesitation	Speaks very articulately without hesitation. Never has the need for unnecessary pauses or hesitation when speaking.	Speaks articulately but sometimes hesitates. Occasionally has the need for a long pause or moderate hesitation when speaking.	Speaks articulately but frequently hesitates. Frequently hesitates or has long, awkward pauses while speaking.	50	
Tone	Appropriate tone is consistent. Speaks at the right pace to be clear. Pronunciation of words is very clear and intent is apparent.	Appropriate tone is usually consistent. Speaks at the right pace most of the time but shows some nervousness. Pronunciation of words is usually clear, sometimes vague.	Has difficulty using an appropriate tone. Pace is too fast; nervous. Pronunciation of words is difficult to understand; unclear.	50	
Connecting and articulating facts and issues	Exemplary in connecting facts and issues and articulating how they impact the issue locally and globally. Possesses a strong knowledge base and effectively articulates information regarding related facts and current issues.	Sufficient in connecting facts and issues and articulating how they impact the issue locally and globally. Possesses a good knowledge base and for the most part, articulates information regarding related facts and current issues.	Has difficulty with connecting facts and issues and articulating how they impact the issue locally and globally. Possesses some knowledge base but is unable to articulate information regarding related facts and current issues.	150	
Oral Communication Sub-total				300	
Non-verbal Communication					
Eye contact	Eye contact constantly used as an effective connection. Constantly looks at the entire audience (90–100 percent of the time).	Eye contact is mostly effective and consistent. Mostly looks around the audience (60–80 percent of the time).	Eye contact does not always allow connection with the speaker. Occasionally looks at someone or some groups (less than 50 percent of the time).	100	
Mannerisms	Hand motions are expressive and used to emphasize talking points. No nervous habits.	Sometimes exhibits nervous habits. Hands are sometimes used to express or emphasize.	Displays some nervous habits. Hands are not used to emphasize talking points; hand motions are sometimes distracting.	100	
Gestures	Gestures are purposeful and effective. Hand motions are expressive and used to emphasize talking points. Great posture (confident) with positive body language.	Usually uses purposeful gestures. Hands are sometimes used to express or emphasize. Occasionally slumps; sometimes negative body language.	Occasionally gestures are used effectively. Hands are not used to emphasize talking points; hand motions are sometimes distracting. Lacks positive body language; slumps.	100	
Poise and Professionalism	Portrays confidence and composure through appropriate body language (stance, posture, facial expressions). Dressed in all aspects of Official Dress.	Maintains control most of the time; rarely loses composure. Missing minor aspects of Official Dress.	Lacks confidence and composure. Missing major aspects of Official Dress.	100	
Non-verbal Communication Sub-total				400	

Question Points					
Supportive details/facts	Speaks unrehearsed mostly with comfort and ease. Speaks quickly with organized thoughts and concise accurate answers.	Speaks unrehearsed mostly with comfort and ease, but sometimes seems to lack supporting details. Sometime gets off focus and uses less concise facts and examples.	Shows nervousness or seems unprepared when speaking unrehearsed. Seems to ramble or speaks before thinking. Inaccurate or incomplete details.	150	
Being detail-oriented	Stays fully focused and detail-oriented. Always provides details that support the issue; is well organized.	Stays mostly focused and detail-oriented. Usually provides details that are supportive of the issue; displays good organizational skills.	Difficulty staying focused and detail-oriented. Sometimes overlooks details that could be very beneficial to the issue; lacks organization.	150	
Question Points				300	
Oral Communication Sub-total				300	
Non-verbal Communication Sub-total				400	
<i>Time Deduction (1 point per second under 4 or over 6 minutes)</i>					
Net Total Points				1000	
Rank					
Comments:					