

## PREPARED PUBLIC SPEAKING

During the Prepared Public Speaking Leadership Development Event (LDE), students write and deliver a speech about a current agriculture-related topic.

Students research a topic of interest and then put together a creative, informative speech. The speech is then presented to a panel of judges, who score the student based on the speech's content, composition and delivery.

### RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. **EACH CONTESTANT'S SPEECH IS TO BE THE RESULT OF THEIR OWN RESEARCH AND COMPOSITION.** Training in both composition and delivery is limited to the facilities of the school from which the contestant comes, but facts and working data may be secured from any source.
2. Contestants who have won the right to compete in a sectional CDE must also file with the hosting district advisor:
  - a. One original and five double-spaced typewritten copies of the speech on 8-1/2" x 11" paper.
  - b. There will be a 50 point penalty for late or insufficient number of manuscripts.
3. Contestants who have won the right to compete in a state CDE must send their manuscript to the FFA Office two weeks prior to the Friday of State Convention by 5:00 pm for manuscript scoring and questions formulation.
4. Contestants who have won the right to compete in a state CDE must also file with state staff through their Agriculture Instructor by 2pm Friday of State Convention:
  - a. One original and twelve double-spaced typewritten copies of the speech on 8-1/2" x 11" paper.
  - b. A signed statement of originality of research and composition on form provided. (State CDE)
  - c. There will be a 50 point penalty for late or insufficient number of manuscripts. All paperwork received more than 1 hour late will receive a 0.
5. A bibliography must be included as part of the public speaker's manuscript and direct quotes from any other source of information must be marked in quotes on the manuscript and be identified in the bibliography. This applies to all contests above the chapter level. Failure to comply will result in disqualification.
6. Once all public speaking awards have been presented, no changes in the placing or awards may occur. The only exception is if plagiarism has occurred.
7. Official judges shall disqualify a contestant if they speak on a non-agricultural subject. Contestants may choose any current subject for their speeches which is of an agricultural character (nature) which may include: Agriscience and technology, agribusiness, agrimarketing, international agricultural relations, and agricultural communications.
8. Each speech shall be a minimum of six (6) minutes in length and a maximum of eight (8) minutes. Each contestant will be allowed five (5) minutes additional time in which they will be asked questions relating to their speech. Deductions of 20 points per minute, or major fraction thereof, will be made from the score of each judge for speeches under six minutes or over eight minutes in length. (To prevent being penalized, a contestant must speak over five minutes, 30 seconds, and under eight minutes, 30 seconds.) (Major fraction = 30 seconds or more.)
9. Contestants shall draw for places on the program. The program chairman shall then introduce each contestant by name only, in order of drawing, and announce the speech title if desired by contestant.

10. A timekeeper shall be designated who will record the time used by each contestant in delivering their speech, noting over or under time, if any, for which deductions will be made.
11. When the contestants have finished speaking, each judge will total their score on composition and delivery for each contestant. The timekeeper's record will be used in computing the final score for each contestant. Contestants should be ranked in numerical order on basis of final score to be determined by each judge, first without consultation with each other. The high and low rankings of each contestant will be disregarded. The remaining judges ranking of each contestant should be added, and the winner will be the contestant whose total ranking is the lowest.
12. Speeches are to be presented without aid of audio or visual materials except podium and/or microphones.

## **STATE EVENT**

1. Scoring judges for the state event shall consist of five qualified persons selected by the State CDE Coordinator or their designee.
2. Judges shall also serve as questioners who read the manuscripts, formulate questions, and question each participant. Questions shall pertain directly to the speaker's subject. Questions containing two or more parts should be avoided.
3. The official timer will stand, be noticed by speaker and then sit with one minute remaining in the speech length. The official timer will also call time at the end of the question period and the speaker will stop immediately.
4. Score cards are designed to be a guide and state level judges are not required to use it.
5. The full allotted questions period will be used.
6. A written critique by the judges will be prepared for each state contestant and made available to them following the CDE.

## **SCORING**

### **Manuscript Scorecard (200 points)**

Manuscript Content – 100 points

1. Topic is important and appropriate (50 points)
  - a. Current topic of interest – 25 points
  - b. Topic is relevant and within the scope of identified subjects – 25 points
2. Suitability of material used (50 points)
  - a. Validity of resources – 25 points
  - b. Accuracy of content – 25 points

Manuscript Composition – 100 points

1. Organization and development of content (40 points)
  - a. Logical order and unity of thought – 20 points
  - b. Accomplishment of purpose – 20 points
2. Grammatical accuracy (35 points)
  - a. Spelling/grammar – 35 points
3. Manuscript written according to event format rule #1 (25 points)
  - a. Double-spaced, 8"x11" white bond paper, 1" margins in body of paper – 5 points
  - b. 12 point Arial or sans serif font; cover page with title, name, state and year – 5 points
  - c. APA style for references and bibliography – 15 points

### **Presentation Scorecard (800 points)**

Oral Communication – 300 points

1. Examples – 50 points



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluation Criteria					200 possible points
	<b>Very strong evidence skill is present</b>	<b>Moderate evidence skill is present</b>	<b>Strong evidence skill is not present</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Total Score</b>
	5-4	3-2	1-0		
Manuscript Content					100 possible points
Topic is important and appropriate					50 points
Current topic of interest	Topic is current or a strong evidence of personal involvement in the topic is expressed	Topic is dated or some evidence of personal involvement has been expressed	Topic is irrelevant for the times or is unrelated to personal involvement	X5	
Topic is relevant and within the scope identified subjects in the CDE manual	Topic addresses an issue facing the industry of agriculture	Topic addressed an issue that may show some relationship to the industry of agriculture	Topic addresses an issue that is unrelated to the industry of agriculture	X5	
Suitability of materials used					50 points
Validity of Resources	Resources are from a reputable source	Resources are from questionable sources	Resources are from unreliable sources	X5	
Accuracy of content	Manuscript reflects accurate statements from resources	Manuscript reflects some misinterpretation of resource materials	Manuscript does not reflect accurate statements based on the resources provided	X5	
Total points for this section					
Manuscript Composition					100 possible points
Organization and development of content					40 points
Logical order and unity of thought	Clearly organized and concise by remaining on target; completely focused with obvious construction and strong introduction, body, and conclusion layout.	Good organization with few statements out of place or lacking in clear construction	Little to no organization is present; sometimes awkward and lacking construction	X4	
Accomplishment of purpose	The style chosen has obviously been well thought out based on the specific audience	Most language is appropriate for the intended audience	Some language used might be confusing for some audiences	X4	
Grammatical accuracy					35 points
Spelling/grammar (sentence structure, verb agreement, etc.)	Spelling and grammar are extremely high quality with 2 or less errors in document	Spelling and grammar are adequate with 3-5 errors in the document	Spelling and grammar are less than adequate with 6 or more errors in the document	X7	
Manuscript written according to event format rule #1	5 points		0 points		25 points
Double-spaces on 8 ½ x 11 white bond paper				X1	
12 point Arial or sans serif font					
1" margins in the body of the paper				X1	
Cover page with speech title, participants name, chapter, and year					
APA style for references and bibliography				X3	
Total points for this section					
<b>Grand total points</b>					

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicators	Very strong evidence skill is present 5-4	Moderate evidence skill is present 3-2	Strong evidence skill is not present 1-0	Points Earned	Weight	Total Score
<b>Oral Communication</b>						
A. Example	<i>Examples are vivid, precise and clearly explained.</i> Examples are original, logical, and relevant	<i>Examples are usually concrete, sometimes needs clarification.</i> Examples are effective, but need more originality or thought.	<i>Examples are abstract or not clearly defined.</i> Examples are sometimes confusing, leaving the listeners with questions.		X10	
B. Speaking without hesitation	<i>Speaks very articulately without hesitation</i> Never has the need for unnecessary pauses or hesitation when speaking	<i>Speaks articulately, but sometimes hesitates.</i> Occasionally has the need for a long pause or moderate hesitation when speaking.	<i>Speaks articulately, but with frequent hesitates.</i> Frequently hesitates or has long, awkward pauses while speaking.		X10	
C. Tone	<i>Appropriate tone is consistent.</i> Speaks at the right pace to be clear. Pronunciation of words is very clear and intent is apparent.	<i>Appropriate tone is usually consistent.</i> Speaks at the right pace most of the time, but shows some nervousness. Pronunciation of words is usually clear, sometimes vague.	<i>Has difficulty using an appropriate tone.</i> Pace is too fast, nervous. Pronunciation of words is difficult to understand, unclear.		X10	
D. Being detail oriented	<i>Is able to stay fully detail oriented.</i> Always provides details which support the issue, is well organized.	<i>Is mostly good at being detail oriented.</i> Usually provides details which are supportive of the issue, displays good organizational skills.	<i>Has difficulty being detail oriented.</i> Sometimes overloads details that could be very beneficial to the issue, lacks organization.		X10	
E. Command of Audience	Speaker uses power of presentation to engage and captivate the audience with the message of the speech.	Speaker presents speech as more repeating of facts and speech come across as a report	Speaker bores the audience with lack of enthusiasm and power to deliver speech.		X10	
F. Content and articulate facts and issues	<i>Examples in connecting facts and issues articulating how they impact the issue locally and globally.</i> Possesses a strong knowledge base and is able to effectively articulate information regarding related facts and current issues.	<i>Sufficient in connecting facts and issues and articulating how they impact the issue locally and globally.</i> Possesses a good knowledge base and is able to, for the most part, articulate information regarding related facts and current issues.	<i>Has difficulty with connecting facts and issues and articulating how they impact the issue locally and globally.</i> Possesses some knowledge base, but is unable to articulate information regarding related facts and current issue.		X10	
<b>Non-verbal Communication</b>				<b>200 possible points</b>		
A. Attention	<i>Eye contact constantly used as an effective connection.</i> Constantly looks at the entire audience (90-100% of the time).	<i>Eye contact is mostly effective and consistent.</i> Mostly looks around the audience (60-80% of the time).	<i>Eye contact does not always allow connection with the speaker.</i> Occasionally looks at someone or groups (less than 50% of the time).		X10	
B. Mannerisms	<i>Does not have distracting mannerisms that affect effectiveness.</i> No nervous habits	<i>Sometimes has distracting mannerisms that pull from the presentation.</i> Sometimes exhibits nervous habits or ticks.	<i>Have mannerisms that pull from the effectiveness of the presentation.</i> Displays some nervous habits-fidgets or anxious ticks.		X10	
C. Gestures	<i>Gestures are purposeful and effective.</i> Hand motions are expressive and used to emphasize talking points. Great posture (confident) with positive body language.	<i>Usually uses purposeful gestures.</i> Hands are sometimes used to express or emphasize. Occasionally slumps; sometimes negative body language.	<i>Occasionally gestures are used effectively.</i> Hands are not used to emphasize talking points; hand motions are sometimes distracting. Lacks positive body language; slumps.		X10	
D. Well-poised	<i>Is extremely well-poised.</i> Poised and in control at all times.	<i>Usually is well-poised.</i> Poised and is in control most of the time; rarely loses composure.	<i>Isn't always well-poised.</i> Sometimes seems to lose composure.		X10	
			Total			

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicators	Very strong evidence skill is present 5-4	Moderate evidence skill is present 3-2	Strong evidence skill is not present 1-0	Points Earned	Weight	Total Score
Response to Questions						300 possible points
A. Speaking unrehearsed (questions and answers)	<i>Speaks unrehearsed with comfort and ease.</i> Is able to speak quickly with organized thoughts and concise answers.	<i>Speaks unrehearsed mostly with comfort and ease, but sometimes seems nervous or unsure.</i> Is able to speak effectively, has to stop and think, and sometimes gets off focus.	<i>Shows nervousness or some unprepared when speaking unrehearsed.</i> Seems to ramble or speaks before thinking.			
B. Demonstrates knowledge of topic	<i>Answer shows thorough knowledge of the subject of the speech.</i> Supporters answer with strong evidence	<i>Answer shows some knowledge of the subject.</i> Some evidence, but lacking in strength.	<i>Answer shows little knowledge of the subject.</i> Evidence is lacking to support the answer.			
			<b>Total</b>			

Instructions

- Judges are requested to prepare three brief questions for each speech. Questions shall pertain directly to the speakers' subject. Questions with two or more parts should be avoided.
- Questions should be prepared prior to the CDE, in the space provided below, and brought to the CDE in complete and legible form.
- Please phrase opinion questions carefully (How do you feel about ---, what is your opinion of ---, etc.), as scoring judges must grade on the basis of logic, facts, and soundness of answers.
- Each contestant is allowed five minutes for questions. The full five minutes should be used. The questioners (3) shall rotate in presenting their questions.

QUESTION 1. \_\_\_\_\_

JUDGE'S COMMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

QUESTION 2. \_\_\_\_\_

JUDGE'S COMMENT: \_\_\_\_\_



**This form to be used for winners that will be  
competing in the State Event**

**CERTIFICATION FORM  
FOR  
FFA PREPARED PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTESTANTS**

I hereby certify that my speech entitled " \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ "

is the result of my own effort and ability. It is understood that I am encouraged to utilize all available training facilities of my local school in developing my speaking abilities, and that I may obtain facts and working data from any source. However, in securing information as direct quotes or phrases, specific dates, figures or other materials, such must be marked in "quotes" in manuscript and are identified in the bibliography at the end of the manuscript. Failure to do so represents plagiarism and will automatically disqualify me as a contestant.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Contestant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Agricultural Science & Technology Instructor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Chapter \_\_\_\_\_