

# CREED SPEAKING

"I believe in the future of agriculture, with a faith born not of words but of deeds..." The National FFA Creed Speaking Leadership Development Event (LDE) recognizes outstanding FFA members for their ability to present the FFA Creed from memory and answer questions related to it.

The FFA Creed outlines the organization's values and beliefs regarding the industry of agriculture, FFA membership, and citizenship and patriotism. Students participating in the Creed Speaking LDE learn to communicate in a powerful, organized and professional manner and build self-confidence.

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Contestants will recite from memory the FFA Creed as printed in the latest edition of the Official FFA Manual, and WILL only use the introduction, "The FFA Creed" by E.M. Tiffany. Any additional words, such as "Are the Judges ready? or Are there any Questions?" will count as point deduction. The student will end with "Thank You" as shown on the National FFA Paperwork used by the state.
2. Contestants must be seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) through ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) grade and may only compete at the sectional level once.
3. There will be no time limit on individual delivery of the Creed.
4. At the state CDE one identical question shall be asked each contestant. Other contestants are to be off stage where the question and response cannot be heard.
5. Presiding officer may act as prompter to prevent embarrassment.
6. There will be five judges for each state event. When all contestants have finished speaking, each judge will total the score on each contestant. The judges score sheets will rank the contestants in numerical order on the basis of the final score without consultation of each other. The high and low ranking of each contestant will be disregarded. The remaining judge's rankings of each contestant will be added and the winner will be the contestant whose total ranking score is the lowest.

## STATE EVENT

1. Scoring judges for the state event shall consist of five qualified persons selected by the State FFA Office
2. Score cards are designed to be a guide and state level judges are not required to use it.
3. A written critique by the judges will be prepared for each state contestant and made available to them following the CDE.

## RESULTS TABULATION

1. Speaking judges will judge each speech independently to formulate a raw score, using the scorecard as a guide.
  2. At the conclusion of speeches each judge will formulate their own ranking.
  3. These ranks will be provided to the coordinator who will weight them at a 2.5.
  4. With the CDE coordinator create an overall rank, based on the combination of judges rankings. Low score wins.
  5. In the case that there are five or more judges, the high & low rank for each contestant will be dropped.
- Ties will be broken based on the greatest number of low ranks. Participant's 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 event superintendent will rank the participant's response to questions. The participant with the greatest number of low ranks from the response to questions will be declared the winner. If a tie still



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. 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.		X20	
B. Pace	Speaks at a moderate pace to be clear.	Speaks at a moderate pace most of the time, but shows some nervousness.	Pace is too slow/fast; nervous.		X5	
C. Tone	Voice is upbeat, impassioned and under control.	Voice is somewhat upbeat, impassioned and under control.	Voice is not upbeat, lacks passion and control.		X5	
D. Pronunciation	Pronunciation of words is very clear and intent is apparent .	Pronunciation of words is usually clear, sometimes mumbled.	Pronunciation of words is difficult to understand, unclear.		X5	
E. Volume	Emitted a clear, audible voice for the audience present.	Emitted a somewhat clear, audible voice for the audience present.	Emitted a barely audible voice for the audience present.		X5	
<b>Non-verbal Communication</b>				200 possible points		
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).		X20	
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.		X20	
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.		X20	
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.		X20	
<b>Question and Answers -400 Points</b>						
A. Being detail oriented	Is able to stay fully detail oriented. Always provides details which support answer/basis of the question.	Is mostly good at being detail oriented. Usually provides details which are supportive of the answer/basis of the question.	Has difficulty being detail oriented. Sometimes overlooks details that could be very beneficial to the answer/basis of the question.		X30	
B. Speaking unrehearsed (questions and answers)	Speaks unrehearsed with comfort and ease. Is able to speak quickly with organized thoughts and concise answers.	Speaks unrehearsed mostly with comfort and ease, but sometimes seems nervous or unsure. Is able to speak effectively, has to stop and think, and sometimes gets off focus.	Shows nervousness or some unprepared when speaking unrehearsed. Seems to ramble or speaks before thinking.		X30	
C. Examples used in response to questions.	Examples are vivid, precise and clearly explained. Examples are original, logical and relevant.	Examples are usually concrete, sometimes needs 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.		X20	
<b>Gross Total Points</b>						
<b>*Accuracy Deduction</b>						
<b>Net Total Points</b>						
<b>Rank</b>						
*20 point deduction per word, as determined by the accuracy judge						