



Extemporaneous Speaking

Purpose

The National 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 gives FFA members an opportunity to formulate their remarks for presentation in a very limited amount of time.

Objectives

1. To encourage students to develop a general knowledge of agricultural issues.
2. To develop students' abilities to prepare and organize a speech.
3. To develop students' abilities to think quickly and logically.
4. To develop students' abilities to express themselves in a clear and coherent manner to an audience.

Event Format

The Extemporaneous Public Speaking Leadership Development Event consists of three phases:

- PHASE I Participants organize and prepare a four to six (4-6) minute speech using limited time and resources on an assigned topic.
- PHASE II Participants present their speech to a panel of judges.
- PHASE III A judge is allowed to ask the participant questions related to the speech for five minutes.

Rules and Regulations

1. All general rules apply except as indicated in the specific rules of this LDE.
2. Sub-district or parish, district and area LDEs will be held as per schedule approved by the State Executive Committee.
3. All rules and regulations for the National LDE, as announced in the current version of the National FFA Career/Leadership Development Events Handbook will be observed in all sub-district, district, Area and state events.

4. The Extemporaneous Public Speaking Leadership Development Event will be open only to students regularly enrolled in an Agriculture Education course during the current year, or who are still in high school, but have completed all the Agriculture Education courses offered; they must be active members of chartered FFA chapters in good standing with the State Association and the National Organization.
5. Format:
 - a. Contestants will draw to determine the order of speaking.
 - b. Contestants will be admitted to the preparation room at 15 - minute intervals
 - c. Each contestant will be given exactly 30 minutes for topic selection and preparation before giving the speech.
 - d. **The contestants will draw three specific topics selected at random from the pool of 18, relating to the industry of agriculture**
 - e. The contestant **chooses one of the three topics** drawn to speak on. After selecting the topic they desire to speak on, all three topics are returned to the original group of topic areas prior to the next drawing.
 - f. Eighteen (18) topics will be prepared by the event superintendent and will include three (3) each from the following categories:
 - i. •Agricultural literacy and advocacy
 - Current agricultural issues
 - Advancing agriculture through agriculture science
 - Current technology uses and applications in agriculture
 - Agri-marketing and international agriculture
 - Food and fiber systems
6. The officials in charge of the event will screen reference material 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 10 minutes to conduct online research. Computers may be provided. Access to email, Dropbox or any prepared materials are prohibited.**
 - To be counted as one item, a notebook or folder of collected materials may contain no more than 100 single-sided pages or 50 pages double-sided 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.

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.

A list of all possible topics will be given to and reviewed by the judges prior to the beginning of the event.

7. Time Limit: Each speech should be no less than four (4) and no more than six (6) minutes in length. An additional five (5) minutes will be allowed for the questioner to ask related questions. The coordinator of the event will introduce the participant by name and state. The participant may introduce his or her speech by title only. Participants will be penalized one (1) point per second on each judge's score sheet for being over six (6) minutes or under four (4) minutes. Time commences when the speaker begins talking. Speakers may use a watch to keep a record of their time. Event officials or observers will give no time warnings.
8. Contestants are not allowed to witness another contestant's speech prior to giving their own speeches. However, the contestant is permitted to listen to those speeches that follow.
9. At some sub-district or district LDEs, there may be more than four contestants. If this should occur, no contestants will be allowed to listen to the other speeches until given exactly the same amount of preparation time (30 minutes between selection to topic and delivery of speech).
10. Contestants 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.
11. Applause shall be withheld until the contestant has concluded their speech.
12. Timekeepers will record the time for each participant in delivering his or her speech, noting under time or over time, if any, for which deductions should be made.
13. Three competent and impartial persons will be selected to judge the event. At least one judge should have an agricultural background. Any advisor who has a student competing in a speaking event may not serve as a judge for that respective speaking event.
14. Any participant in possession of any electronic device, not provided by the event committee, in the preparation room is subject to disqualification.
15. A list of all possible topics will be given to the judges prior to the beginning of the event.
16. Judges should meet prior to the LDE to prepare and clarify the types of questions to be asked.

17. One judge shall be designated as a questioner. This individual will ask and score all questions for the event round. Questions will pertain directly to the speaker's subject. Questions containing two or more parts should be avoided. Judges will score each participant on the ability to answer. The full five minutes should be used.
18. First place winners in any previous State Extemporaneous Public Speaking LDE are ineligible to compete again in the same event.
19. More information relative to all subsequent events can be found in the current edition of the National FFA Career/Leadership Development Events Handbook. Participants in these Leadership Development Events should familiarize themselves with all rules and regulations prior to the LDE.
20. The top **four** competitors from Sub-District and District competitions will move on to the Area competition. The top **two** competitors from Area will advance to the State competition.
Adopted 2010
21. Members are required to wear official dress at all levels of competition. *Adopted 2010*
22. Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) language models is allowed for research purposes within the 10 minutes of internet access. Competitors may not use any AI or generative language modelers to construct speech components (full speeches, introductions, conclusions, main points, outlines, etc.). Use of language modeling to generate speech components or verbiage will result in disqualification. (Adopted 2025)

TIEBREAKERS

Ties will be broken based on the greatest number of low ranks. The 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 event superintendent will rank the participants' responses to the questions. The participant with the greatest number of low ranks from the response to questions will be declared the winner. If a tie still exists, then the participants' raw score will be totaled. The participant with the greatest total of raw points will be declared the winner. (Adopted 2025)

Extemporaneous Public Speaking Rubric

Name _____ School/Chapter _____

INDICATORS	Very strong evidence of skill is present 5-4 points	Moderate evidence of skill is present 3-2 points	Strong evidence of skill is not present 1-0 points	Points Earned	Weight	Total Score
Oral Communication – 600 points						
Examples	- Examples are vivid, precise and clearly explained. - Examples are original	- 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.		X 10	
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.		X 10	
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.		X 10	
Being Detail oriented	- Is able to stay fully detail-oriented. - Always provides details which support the issue; is well organized.	- Is mostly good at being detail-oriented. - Usually provides details which are supportive of the issue; displays good organizational skills.	- Has difficulty being detail-oriented. - Sometimes overlooks details that could be very beneficial to the issue; lacks organization.		X 30	
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 is able to effectively articulate 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 is able to, for the most part, articulate 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.		X 30	
Speaking unrehearsed (questions & 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 seems unprepared when speaking unrehearsed. - Seems to ramble or speaks before thinking.		X 30	
Oral Communications Total						

INDICATORS	Very strong evidence of skill is present 5-4 points	Moderate evidence of skill is present 3-2 points	Strong evidence of skill is not present 1-0 points	Points Earned	Weight	Total Score
Non-verbal Communication – 400 points						
Attention (eye contact)	• Eye contact constantly used as an effective connection. • Constantly looks at the entire audience (90-100% of the time).	• Eye contact is mostly effective and consistent. • Mostly looks around the audience (60-80% of the time).	• Eye contact does not always allow connection with the speaker. • Occasionally looks at someone or some groups (less than 50% of the time).		X 20	
Mannerisms	• Does not have distracting mannerisms that affect effectiveness. • No nervous habits	• Sometimes has distracting mannerisms that pull from the presentation. • Sometimes exhibits nervous habits or ticks.	• Has mannerisms that pull from the effectiveness of the presentation. • Displays some nervous habits – fidgets or anxious ticks.		X 20	
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.		X 20	
Well-poised	• Is extremely well - poised. • Poised and in control at all times	• Usually is well-poised. • Poised and in control most of the time; rarely loses composure	• Isn't always well-poised. • Sometimes seems to lose composure.		X 20	
Non-verbal Communication Total Points						
Oral Communication Total Points						
(1 point per second under 4 minutes or over 6 minutes, determined by the timekeeper)				Time Deductions		
Net Total Points						
Rank						

Extemporaneous Public Speaking Rubric continued