

# Extemporaneous Speaking Rules

## Objective

To develop the ability of FFA members to express themselves through a speech on a given subject about agriculture industry current events without having prepared or rehearsed its content in advance.

### A. Rules and Regulations

1. The event is open to all FFA members in good standing who are regularly enrolled in an agricultural education course at or above the ninth grade level during one or both semesters of the current school year and who have not placed first in the state Extemporaneous Speaking Leadership Development Event (LDE) previously.
2. Each district will determine the number of individuals per school allowed to compete at the district level. Ribbons may be awarded according to the guidelines on the results sheets. The top four participants shall be ranked, regardless of their ribbon assignment. Up to three receiving a purple ribbon rating at the district level may advance to the state round of competition. Advancing speakers are to be of high quality. Any identified alternate must have received a purple or blue ribbon rating.
3. Each participant shall wear the official FFA dress as defined in the FFA Manual: a white collared shirt or blouse, official FFA tie or scarf, black trousers or skirt, black shoes, and FFA jacket. Points may be deducted for variance from official dress.
4. In addition to the Extemporaneous Speaking LDE, the participant may compete in only one of the following events in a given year: Conduct of Chapter Meetings (applicable to ninth and tenth grade participants), Parliamentary Procedure, or Agricultural Demonstration. They are not eligible to compete in any other individual (not team-based) Leadership Development Event in the same year in which they participate in Extemporaneous Speaking.
5. Twelve topics shall be prepared by the FFA Association state staff, in partnership with industry representatives versed on the current issues facing the agriculture industry. Two topics will be prepared from each of the following six areas:
  - Agricultural literacy and advocacy***
  - Current agricultural issues***
  - Advancing agriculture through agriculture science***
  - Current technology uses and applications in agriculture***
  - Agrimarketing and international agriculture***
  - Food and fiber systems***
6. Each of the 12 topics will be listed on an individual card. Each participant will randomly draw three cards from the original 12. During the random selection of three cards, the topics shall be presented face down to the speaker so that the topics are unknown at the point of selection. The speaker will then review the three cards selected at random and intentionally choose one topic to address through their speech. After selection, all topics will be returned to the original group of topics, face down, prior to the next participant drawing.



7. Each participant must bring their own reference material. This material will be screened by the officials managing the Leadership Development Event. The following items may be brought (or in the case of the laptop, used) on the following basis:
  - a) Shall be limited to five printed items. Must be printed material such as books or magazines and/or a compilation of collected materials (cannot be notes or speeches prepared for this event or a previous event).
  - b) To be counted as one item, a notebook or folder of collected materials may contain no more than 100 pages, single sided or 50 pages double sided numbered consecutively (cannot be notes or speeches prepared by the participant or notes or speeches prepared by another person for the purpose of use in this event). Copies must reference the origination point.
  - c) Participants may have 10 minutes starting at the beginning of the 30 minute preparation time to conduct research using an electronic device provided by event coordinators. At the state event, a laptop or tablet shall be provided for such research. Districts must determine and announce to all teachers within the district if the district will provide a laptop, desktop, or tablet or if students should bring their own device. Access to email and prepared content shall be strictly monitored and prohibited. Search engines, content sites flash drives, and online personal document storage sites are permissible. No cellphones or electronic devices with communication capabilities will be allowed into the holding or competition rooms. Members found to have these in possession will be disqualified from the competition.
8. Each speech will be limited to six minutes and must be no less than four minutes in length. A time indicator shall be provided at four minutes. One point will be deducted for each second that the student speaks over time or under time. A maximum of five minutes of additional time will be allowed for each participant to answer questions asked by the evaluators.
9. Each participant's speech is to be the result of his or her own effort. Index cards will be provided. Each participant will be granted 30 minutes to prepare his or her remarks. Use of the computer is allowed for the first 10 minutes of this time.
10. Recording of LDEs
  - a. State LDEs
    - i. There will be no state association hired media that record the LDE event in its entirety.
    - ii. The use of tripods or devices that are larger than a handheld recording device (i.e. a cellphone) are prohibited.
    - iii. As a public event with an audience present, individual competitors must realize that audience members may be recording their LDE presentation. The FFA Association and the FFA Board of Directors, will not monitor the use of recording devices.
  - b. District LDEs

- i. No video recording will be allowed in the performance room in order to maintain the integrity of the event at future locations.

## ***B. Suggested Guide for Conducting District Event***

### *Prior to the Event*

1. The order of appearance to be used shall be determined in advance of the event.
2. Provide one of the following to each evaluator:
  - a. Extemporaneous Speaking Rules (this document)
  - b. Judges Scoring Reference Sheet
  - c. Score Sheet – One per Participant
  - d. Official Results Sheet
  - e. Order of Appearance Sheet

### *Start Event*

1. The participant will draw three topics and select the one on which they wish to speak. The participant must write down the topic and return all three cards to the original group prior to the next participant drawing.
2. Each participant must be allowed the full 30-minute preparation period, which begins at the time they enter the preparation room, and after they have selected a topic. The first 10 minutes of this time may be spent on a computer.
3. Each participant shall be introduced to the evaluators by the individual coordinating the event. Introductions will include the participant's name and chapter. Example: The following speaker is Alex Degree from the Blue and Gold FFA Chapter.
4. No one shall enter or leave the speaking room while the speaker is presenting.
5. After each participant concludes their speech, the timer must record the total time and forward to the evaluators.
6. Each participant is to be allowed a maximum of five minutes of questioning by the evaluators following the speech. These questions are to be based on the speech content.

### *After the Event*

1. Each evaluator shall total each participant's score and arrive at the placing. Discussion between evaluators is allowed and encouraged. Audience members and participants shall not be present during evaluator discussion.
2. Ribbons may be awarded according to the guidelines on the results sheets. The top four participants shall be ranked, regardless of their ribbon assignment. Up to three receiving a purple ribbon rating at the district level may advance to the state round of competition. Advancing speakers are to be of high quality. Any identified alternate must have received a purple or blue ribbon rating.
3. A scoresheet with feedback shall be completed for each participant.
4. One copy of the results should be completed on the form provided to the judges. List the name and chapter of each participant. Fill out the digital results sheet from the State FFA Office.

**C. Official Score Card**

Examples	50
Speaking without hesitation	50
Tone	50
Being detail-oriented	150
Connecting and articulating facts and issues	150
Speaks unrehearsed	150
Attention	100
Mannerisms	100
Gestures	100
Well-poised	100

**Total 1000**

Time Penalty: one point is deducted for each second under time or over time.

**D. Awards Recognition**

1. District Awards: Participants meriting awards shall be rated as purple, blue, red, or white and the top four participants shall be ranked by number (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th). The top four participants shall be ranked, regardless of their ribbon assignment. Up to three receiving a purple ribbon rating at the district level may advance to the state round of competition. Advancing speakers are to be of high quality. Any identified alternate must have received a purple or blue ribbon rating.
2. State Awards: Participants in the state event will be designated as gold, silver, or bronze medal recipient.

## Judges Scoring Reference Sheet: Extemporaneous Speaking

Use this sheet as a reference to complete the Student Score Sheet with feedback for each participant.

### Verbal Communication

Indicator	Very Strong Evidence of Skill is Present	Moderate Evidence of Skill is Present	Strong Evidence of skill is Not Present
Examples	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
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
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
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
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
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

### Non-Verbal Communication

Indicator	Very Strong Evidence of Skill is Present	Moderate Evidence of Skill is Present	Strong Evidence of skill is Not Present
-----------	--	---------------------------------------	---

Attention (Eye Contact)	Constantly looks at the entire audience (90 - 100% of the time)	Mostly looks around the audience (60 - 80% of the time)	Occasionally looks at someone or some groups (less than 50 % of the time)
Mannerisms	Does not have distracting mannerisms that affect effectiveness; no nervous habits	Sometimes has distracting mannerisms that pull from the presentation; sometimes exhibits nervous habit or ticks	Has mannerisms that pull from the effectiveness of the presentation; displays some nervous habits; fidgets or anxious ticks
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 and slumps
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

# Student Score Sheet: Extemporaneous Speaking

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

Participant: \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal Communication – 600 possible points					
Indicator	Strong	Moderate	Low	Total Points	Comments
Examples <i>50 points max</i>	34-50	17-33	0-16		
Speaking Without Hesitation <i>50 points max</i>	34-50	17-33	0-16		
Tone <i>50 points max</i>	34-50	17-33	0-16		
Being Detail-Oriented <i>150 points max</i>	100-150	50-99	0-49		
Connecting and Articulating Facts and Issues <i>150 points max</i>	100-150	50-99	0-49		
Speaking Unrehearsed (Questions and Answers) <i>150 points max</i>	100-150	50-99	0-49		
Non-Verbal Communication – 400 possible points					
Attention <i>100 points max</i>	68-100	34-67	0-33		
Mannerisms <i>100 points max</i>	68-100	34-67	0-33		
Gestures <i>100 points max</i>	68-100	34-67	0-33		
Well-poised <i>100 points max</i>	68-100	34-67	0-33		
Sub-total Points					
-1 point per second under 4 minutes or over 6 minutes by the timekeeper					
Total Points					