

Creed Speaking Rules

Objective

To develop the abilities of beginning FFA members to interpret a written piece of work specific to the FFA organization and to express oneself through public speaking, including both verbal and non-verbal communication skills.

A. Rules and Regulations

1. The event is open to FFA members in good standing who are enrolled in agricultural education coursework during one or both semesters of the current school year, are in the seventh, eighth, or ninth grade, and have not placed first in the state Creed 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 Creed Speaking LDE, the participant may compete in only one of the following events in a given year: Conduct of Chapter Meetings, 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 Creed Speaking.
5. Participants will be held in isolation until their presentation. Participants will not be allowed to have contact with any outside persons. No cell phones or electronic devices with communication capabilities will be allowed in the holding room. Members found to have these items in their possession will be disqualified from the competition.

6. The FFA Creed must be presented from memory, without the use of index or note cards. Each participant shall begin the presentation by stating, “The FFA Creed by E.M. Tiffany.” Each participant shall end the presentation with the statement “...that inspiring task. Thank you.” Additional introductory or concluding remarks will result in accuracy deductions as indicated on the scoring rubric.
7. The event will be a timed activity with four minutes allowed for the oral presentation. After four minutes, one point for every second over time will be deducted from the participant’s final score on all judges’ scorecards.
8. The event will include answering questions directly related to the FFA Creed. Each participant will be asked three questions per round, with a five-minute time limit for responses. Sample questions will not be available prior to the event. Judges shall be provided five questions from which to choose. Different question sets may be rotated through district competitions at the discretion of the State FFA staff.
9. One timer will record the time used by each participant in delivering the FFA Creed, and this timekeeper will also monitor the time used and available for the purpose of questions asked after the delivery of the FFA Creed.
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. Creed Speaking Rules (this document)
 - b. Judges Scoring Reference Sheet
 - c. Score Sheet – One per Participant
 - d. Official Results Sheet
 - e. Order of Appearance Sheet
 - f. The FFA Creed

Start Event

1. 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.
2. No one shall enter or leave the speaking room while the speaker is presenting.
3. After the participant is finished, the timer will record the time and forward to the evaluators.
4. A maximum of five minutes shall be allowed for evaluators to question each participant following their recitation of the Creed. The questions will follow the Creed presentations.

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

Pace	10
Tone	10
Volume	10
Eye Contact	10
Mannerisms and Gestures	10
Poise	10
Response to Questions	10
Support	15
Knowledge of Agriculture	15

Total 100

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: Creed Speaking

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

Oral Communication

Indicator	Very Strong Evidence of Skill is Present	Moderate Evidence of Skill is Present	Strong Evidence of Skill is Not Present
Pace	Speaks very articulately at rate that engages audience	Speaks articulately but occasionally speaks too fast or has long unnecessary hesitations	Speaks too slow or too fast to engage audience
Tone	Voice is upbeat, impassioned and under control	Voice is somewhat upbeat, impassioned and under control	Voice is not upbeat; lacks passion and control
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

Non-Verbal Communication

Indicator	Very Strong Evidence of Skill is Present	Moderate Evidence of Skill is Present	Strong Evidence of Skill is Not Present
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)
Mannerisms and Gestures	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
Poise	Portrays confidence and composure through appropriate body language (stance, posture, facial expressions)	Maintains control most of the time; rarely loses composure	Lacks confidence and composure

Question and Answers

Indicator	Very Strong Evidence of Skill is Present	Moderate Evidence of Skill is Present	Strong Evidence of Skill is Not Present
Response to questions	Is able to respond with organized thoughts and concise answers	Is able to speak effectively and sometimes gets off topic. Answer lacks organization	Response fails to answer question
Support	Always provides details which support answers/basis of the question	Usually provides details which are supportive of the answers/basis of the question	Sometimes overlooks details that could be very beneficial to the answers/basis of the question
Knowledge of Agriculture	Answer shows knowledge of agriculture	Answer shows limited knowledge of agriculture	Answer shows no knowledge of agriculture

Student Score Sheet: Creed Speaking

Chapter: _____

Participant: _____

Oral Communication – 30 points					
Indicator	Strong	Moderate	Low	Total Points	Comments
Pace <i>10 points max</i>	8-10	4-7	0-3		
Tone <i>10 points max</i>	8-10	4-7	0-3		
Volume <i>10 points max</i>	8-10	4-7	0-3		
Non-Verbal Communication – 30 points					
Eye Contact <i>10 points max</i>	8-10	4-7	0-3		
Mannerisms and Gestures <i>10 points max</i>	8-10	4-7	0-3		
Poise <i>10 points max</i>	8-10	4-7	0-3		
Question and Answer – 40 points					
Response to Questions <i>10 points max</i>	8-10	4-7	0-3		
Support <i>15 points max</i>	11-15	6-10	0-5		
Knowledge of Agriculture <i>15 points max</i>	11-15	6-10	0-5		
Sub-total Points					
-1 point per second over 4 minutes, determined by the timekeeper.					
- 2 points per word at district events, determined by accuracy judge.					
-5 points per word at the state event, determined by accuracy judge.					
Total Points					

General Comments: