Leadership Development Events

What's Changing?

All changes and rationale were discussed and voted on by the FFA Board of Directors.

Rules: Speaking Events with Manuscripts

- A bibliography in APA or MLA style must be included as part of the speaker's manuscript and direct quotes from any other source of information must be in quotes on the manuscript and identified with the bibliography.
- Starting Fall of 2026, a rolling submission deadline for all state qualifying manuscripts will be implemented as follows:
    - District LDEs held in November, manuscripts due December 15
    - District LDEs held in December, manuscripts due January 15
    - District LDEs held in January, manuscripts due February 12
- State manuscripts may only be submitted once.
- All state-qualifying manuscripts will be scored PRIOR to the State Convention.
- Judges will not judge the speech on accuracy of the speech based on the manuscript.
- All state-qualifying manuscripts will be screened by an AI and plagiarism checker. If more than 30% is reported plagiarized, it will be manually reviewed. If it is still reported as plagiarized, the manuscript will lose 67 points on the rubric and be reported to the judges.

Rules: Conduct of Chapter Meetings and Parliamentary Procedures

- Study material shall not be present at any time during the district level and state level competition.
- The sentinel (or any other officer) may not enter the room to check the set up. The room will be set up according to the rules.

State LDE Order of Appearance

- An LDE scheduling conflict form will open in February. Teachers can complete an optional form to share conflicts, or potential conflicts, based on State CDEs schedule. It is used for planning only and requests can't be guaranteed. The LDE Order of Appearance will be posted by March 1. There will be a 2 day window of time for changes, with the final Order of Appearance posted on March 4. There will be no changes to the LDE Order of Appearance after this date.

State Convention Judges

- It is strongly recommended that all chapters who have LDE qualifiers provide a judge(s) for State LDEs. It is difficult to find enough quality judges each year. Judges can be chaperones, advisors, bus drivers, people from your community, folks that live around the Lincoln area, etc. We work to ensure that there are no conflicts of interest by asking judges to note chapter connections/affiliations on their judging form.

Why Are We Making This Change?

Rules: Speaking Events with Manuscripts

State Convention LDE judges have expressed needing more time to evaluate manuscripts to provide better feedback. The manuscripts being submitted before State Convention on a rolling deadline allows time for evaluators to score and check manuscripts for AI and plagiarism. The specific AI and plagiarism detection tool has not yet been selected. Any submission flagged by the system will be reviewed by a person before any action is taken. We recognize that common phrases, properly cited quotations, and standard terminology may be flagged and will be considered during manual review. Manuscripts can only be submitted one time. The manuscript will not be used to score the speech delivery on a word-by-word basis, so it is ok to update statistics, data, etc. for the delivery of the speech at convention. It is not advised to drastically change the content of the speech from the manuscript.

Rules: Conduct of Chapter Meetings and Parliamentary Procedures

Having study material in the testing and holding rooms has been difficult to manage and monitor. The sentinel, or other officer, checking the room set up adds time and makes it difficult to stay on schedule. The judges and event coordinator will set the room according to the rules and will not “trick” or change the set up.

State LDE Order of Appearance

Posting the Order of Appearance in February led to a lot of changes and swaps. Collecting potential conflicts and waiting for more CDEs to be completed will give a better picture of student schedules. Having the final LDE Order of Appearance posted on March 4 allows teachers to know the schedule, helps determine CDE teams (if district CDEs are still happening) and if CDE alternates need to be identified, and allows time for staff to prepare materials for the State LDEs.

New expectations and action items for teachers:

- Review the LDE rules.
- Submit manuscripts with the new deadline.
- Be proactive with State Convention student schedules.

What stays the same for teachers:

- Manuscripts will be submitted online on the neaged.org website.
- Employment Skills Application, Resume, and Letter of Application will be due February 12.

Support and Resources

Resources:

- LDE Rules and LDE Landing Page https://neaged.org/leadership-development-events/
- Referencing AI In Speech Manuscripts

Referencing AI assistance in your speech depends on whether you are directly quoting/paraphrasing AI-generated text or simply using it for brainstorming, outlining, or editing.

Acknowledging General Assistance (Brainstorming & Outlining)
If you used an AI tool (like ChatGPT, Claude, or Microsoft Copilot) to help outline ideas or brainstorm concepts rather than generating text, formal academic citation is usually not required. Instead, use an acknowledgment statement:

- In an author's note on the cover page or as an appendix: Add a brief note such as, *"Drafting and structural support for this speech were assisted by [AI Tool Name, e.g., ChatGPT].* Or something like *" Author Note: I used ChatGPT (OpenAI, 2026) to assist in organizing the structural outline and refining the transitional phrasing of this speech transcript. The final content and delivery arguments are entirely my own*.

Citing Direct AI Content (Quotes or Paraphrased Text)
If you directly quote or closely paraphrase sentences or paragraphs generated by an AI chatbot, you should provide a formal citation following standard style guidelines.

- MLA Style:
  - Works Cited Format:
    "Description or text of your prompt." AI Tool (e.g., *ChatGPT*), model/version (e.g., GPT-4o), Company (e.g., OpenAI), Date Month Year, Shareable URL.
  - In-Text Citation: Use a shortened version of the prompt in parentheses, e.g., *("Explain the concept")*.
  - Review guidelines online with an MLA style reference site.

- APA Style:
  - Reference List Format:
    Company Name. (Year, Month Day). *Title of chat* [Generative AI chat]. Tool name and model. URL.
  - In-Text Citation: (Company Name, Year)—for example, *(OpenAI, 2026)*.
  - Review guidelines online with an APA style reference site.

Questions?

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