

# **Extemporaneous Speaking**

## **Purpose:**

The Extemporaneous Public Speaking CDE is designed to develop agricultural leadership in FFA members. It aims to provide the opportunity for personal growth and premier leadership by enhancing the speaking skills of participants. The event also encourages civic participation and cultivates a better knowledge of agriculture among participants. It also allows students to develop the ability of FFA members to express himself or herself on a given subject without having prepared or rehearsed its content in advance, therefore causing FFA members to formulate their remarks for presentation in a very limited amount of time.

**Eligibility:** The event is open to students in grades 9-12 enrolled in an Agricultural Education class and has paid FFA dues. Additionally, he/she should be in good standing.

## **Rules:**

- a. The top two contestants in each region will compete at the state event to be conducted during the state FFA convention.
- b. A student can compete in only one speaking event (Greenhand Creed, Upper Creed, Prepared, or Extemporaneous) on the state level in a given year.
- c. A participant shall wear official FFA dress when competing in this event.

## **Event Format:**

- a. The selection of topics shall be held 30 minutes before the event.
- b. The participants will randomly draw a total of three specific topics that are related to the four subject areas. After selecting the topic the contestant desires to speak on, all three topics will be returned for the next drawing.
- c. Twelve topics shall be prepared by the event coordinator and will include three each from the following categories: Agriscience and Technology Agrimarketing and International Relations Urban Agriculture Food and Fiber Systems
- d. Participants will be admitted to the preparation room at 15-minute intervals and given exactly 30 minutes for topic selection and preparation.
- e. Participants may bring a combination of up to five reference books or magazines or notebooks in the preparation room. The notebook shall not exceed 50 pages in length total. This includes 25 pages front and back OR 50 one sided pages.
- f. Each speech shall be the result of the participant's own effort. No other assistance may be provided.

- g. Participants will need to provide note cards for the regional contests. These should be 4x6 in size. The superintendent will provide the students with note cards for the State Finals.
- h. Any notes for speaking must be made during the 30-minute preparation period.
- i. A list of all possible topics will be given to and reviewed by the judges prior to the beginning of the event.

**Time Limit:**

- a. Each speech shall be not less than four and not more than six minutes in length.
- b. Up to five additional minutes will be allowed for related questions that shall be asked by the judges.
- c. Participants will be penalized one point per second on each judge's score sheet for being over six minutes or under four minutes.
- d. Time commences when the speaker begins talking. Speakers may use a watch to keep a record of their time.
- e. Event officials or observers will give no time warnings.

**Procedures:**

- a. The CDE coordinator will randomly draw speaking order.
- b. A timekeeper will keep the official speaking time and monitor the time the judges' use for asking questions.
- c. At least two competent and impartial persons will be selected to judge the event.
- d. Each judge shall formulate and ask questions. Questions shall pertain directly to the speaker's subject.
- e. When all participants have finished speaking, each judge will total the score on each speaker. The timekeeper's record will be used in computing the final score for each participant.
- f. Participants shall be ranked in numerical order on the basis of the final score to be determined by each judge without consultation. The judges' ranking of each participant shall be added, and the winner will be that participant whose total of rankings is the lowest. Other placings shall be determined in the same manner (low point method of selection). In case of a tie, the individual who has the highest grand total score shall have higher rating.
- g. Blank index cards will be allowed for each contestant to use for their speech.
- h. The criteria and point allocation are detailed on the extemporaneous speaking CDE score sheet.
- i. Participants shall introduce themselves and their topic to the judges.