



Extemporaneous Public Speaking

Purpose

The New Jersey 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 event allows FFA members to formulate their remarks for presentation in a very limited time.

Event Rules

The complete rules, policies and procedures relevant to all New Jersey FFA Career and Leadership Development Events may be found in the CDE & LDE Event Participation Policy: https://nj.gov/agriculture/ag_ed/ffa/activity/CDE_LDE_Policy.pdf

- The New Jersey FFA Extemporaneous Public Speaking Leadership Development Event will be limited to two participants from each chapter.
- It is highly recommended that participants wear FFA Official Dress for this event.
- Competent and impartial persons will be selected to judge the event. At least one judge should have an agricultural background.
- Any participant in possession of any electronic device, not provided by the event committee in the preparation room is subject to disqualification.
- Each speech should result from the participant's effort using approved reference material, which the participant may bring to the preparation room. No other assistance may be provided.

Event Format

Event officials will randomly draw speaking order.

The selection of topics will be held right before participant goes in the prep room.

The participant will draw three specific topics, selected at random from the pool of 18, relating to the agriculture industry. After selecting the topic they desire to speak about, the other two topics will be returned to the event coordinator.

Eighteen topics will be prepared by the event coordinator and include three each from the following categories:

- Agricultural literacy and advocacy
- Current agricultural issues
- Advancing agriculture through agriculture science
- Current technology and applications in agriculture
- Agrimarketing and international agriculture
- Food and fiber systems

A new topic will be chosen, as participants advance through rounds (if applicable).

PREPARATION AND MATERIALS

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

Participants will be admitted to the preparation room at 15-minute intervals and given exactly 30 minutes for topic selection and preparation.

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The officials in charge of the event will screen reference material using the following guidelines:

- Must be limited to five items.
- Printed material such as books or magazines.
- Printed compilations of materials collected from Internet research.
- 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.

SPEECH

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 will not have access to a computer or internet to conduct online research. No internet resources are permitted in the preparation room- only the screened references as outlined above may be used. 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.

Each speech should be no less than four and at most six minutes in length. An additional five minutes will be allowed for the judges to ask related questions. The event coordinator of the event will introduce the participant by name and chapter. The participant may introduce their speech by title only. Participants will be penalized one point per second on each judge's score sheet for being over six minutes or under four 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 not give time warnings.

PRESENTATION

The state level event will be conducted in two rounds: preliminaries and finals. The top two speakers from each regional preliminary event will advance to finals held at the State FFA Convention.

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.

At the time of the event, the judges will be seated in a designated section of the room in which the event is held. They will score each participant on the delivery of the production using the score sheet provided.

All judges are permitted to ask questions. All judges will score the response to questions. Questions will pertain directly to the speaker's subject. Questions containing two or more parts should be avoided. The full five minutes should be used.

When all participants have finished speaking, each judge will total the score of each participant. The timekeeper's record will be used to compute each participant's final score. The judges' score sheets will then be submitted to event officials to determine the final rankings of participants.

Recording or videotaping oral presentations is permitted only if the participant is from the same chapter or unless the event coordinator determines that such activity unnecessarily distracts the participant, judges or observers or poses an advantage or disadvantage to the speaking participant.

PRELIMINARY EVENT

Three regional preliminary events will be held in March – Northern, Central, Southern. The top two participants in each region will move on to the final round. The final round will take place at the New Jersey State FFA Convention in May.

Scoring

Participants will be ranked in numerical order based on the final score to be determined by each judge without consultation. The judges' ranking of each participant will then be added, and the winner will be the participant whose total ranking is the lowest. Other placings will be determined similarly (using the low rank method of selection).

TIEBREAKERS

Ties will be broken based on the greatest number of low ranks. 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, the event coordinator will rank the participants' response to questions. The participant with the greatest number of low ranks from the response to question will be declared the winner. If a tie still exists, the participants' raw scores will be totaled. The participant with the greatest total of raw points will be declared the winner.

Awards

Awards will be presented to individuals based upon their rankings at the 3rd general session of the New Jersey State FFA Convention. Awards are sponsored by the New Jersey FFA Foundation.

Individual

1st – \$100.00, plaque sponsored by National FFA, certificate & pin

2nd – \$75.00 & pin

3rd – \$50.00 & pin

The 1st place individual will represent New Jersey at the Big E in September and the National FFA Convention in October.

References

This list of references is not intended to be all-inclusive.

Other sources may be utilized, and teachers are encouraged to make use of the very best instructional materials available. The following list contains references that may prove helpful during event preparation.

- Figures of Speech DVD
- CDE Q&A's (www.ffa.org)
- American Farm Bureau Federation (www.fb.org)
- United States Department of Agriculture (www.usda.gov)

Request for Reasonable Accommodations

The New Jersey FFA Association is committed to providing equal access to our events and activities for all people. Use this form to request a reasonable accommodation or assistance at least 3 weeks before any state-level events: <https://form.jotform.com/NJFFA/accommodations-request>. A new form will need to be submitted for each event in which a reasonable accommodation is being requested. This information will be kept confidential and will be used only to process the request. Our staff will review the request upon receipt and contact the requestor with additional information. The association cannot guarantee accommodations or assistance if a form is received less than 3 weeks before an event. Accommodations being requested that require the assistance of another person (nurse, interpreter, scribe, reader, etc.) is the responsibility of the school/requestor. It is also the school/requestor's responsibility to provide any approved equipment to aide in the accommodation process, if applicable.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy and Guidelines

The standard operative procedures allow FFA members to use AI tools to assist them in their learning. Appropriate uses of AI may include generating ideas for any FFA-related assignment, project, contest and award application; checking facts of a phenomenon; or checking for and correcting grammatical errors in a paper written by a member. Specific guidelines for appropriate use, including examples, is provided in the policy. To ensure clarity, a statement outlining ethical AI utilization will be added to program handbooks. Non-compliance with this policy represents plagiarism and will automatically disqualify a member.

Please visit the State Activity Guide, [Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) Policy 1.007](#) to view the full guidelines and best practices.

Professional Integrity

FFA members participating in New Jersey FFA programs and events understand and agree that all work must result from their own effort and ability, created, and completed alone (except for partner or chapter applications). When outside sources (direct quotes or phrases, specific dates, figures, or other materials) are used for a project, document, or application, the required reference citation must be completed according to the rules specified by the applicable handbook.

While participating in New Jersey FFA programs, FFA members are prohibited from:

- Plagiarizing
- Violating copyright
- Cheating
- Falsifying information
- Using another person's results or thoughts as their own, even with this person's permission. This includes work done by a family member or a mentor.
- Using information or data obtained from the internet without proper citation.

Any attempt to gain an unfair advantage will not be tolerated. Non-compliance represents plagiarism and will automatically disqualify a member.

Extemporaneous Public Speaking Rubric

1000 points

Name _____ Member Number _____

Chapter _____

Indicators	Very strong evidence of skill 5-4 points	Moderate evidence of skill 3-2 points	Weak evidence of skill 1-0 points	Points Earned	Weight	Total Score
Oral Communication – 300 points						
Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examples are vivid, precise and clearly explained. Examples are original, logical and relevant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examples are usually concrete, sometimes need clarification. Examples are effective, but need more originality or thought. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examples are abstract or not clearly defined. Examples are sometimes confusing, leaving the listeners with questions. 		X 10	
Speaking without hesitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speaks very articulately without hesitation. Never has the need for unnecessary pauses or hesitation when speaking. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speaks articulately but sometimes hesitates. Occasionally has the need for a long pause or moderate hesitation when speaking. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speaks articulately but frequently hesitates. Frequently hesitates or has long, awkward pauses while speaking. 		X 10	
Tone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate tone is consistent. Speaks at the right pace to be clear. Pronunciation of words is very clear and intent is apparent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has difficulty using an appropriate tone. Pace is too fast; nervous. Pronunciation of words is difficult to understand; unclear. 		X 10	
Responding to topic selected and articulating facts and issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completely addresses the topic selected, exemplary in connecting facts and issues relating to the topic and articulating how they impact the issue locally and globally. Possesses a strong knowledge base and effectively shares accurate information regarding related facts and current issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sufficient in addressing the topic selected, connecting facts and issues relating to the topic and articulating how they impact the issue locally and globally. Possesses a good knowledge base and for the most part, shares accurate information regarding related facts and current issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not completely align speech with topic selected, 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	
<i>Oral Communications Total</i>						

Indicators	Very strong evidence of skill 5–4 points	Moderate evidence of skill 3–2 points	Weak evidence of skill 1–0 points	Points Earned	Weight	Total Score
Non-verbal Communication – 400 points						
Attention (eye contact)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eye contact constantly used as an effective connection. Constantly looks at the entire audience (90–100% of the time). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eye contact is mostly effective and consistent. Mostly looks around the audience (60–80% of the time). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not have distracting mannerisms that affect effectiveness. No nervous habits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sometimes has distracting mannerisms that pull from the presentation. Sometimes exhibits nervous habits or ticks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has mannerisms that pull from the effectiveness of the presentation. Displays some nervous habits — fidgets or anxious ticks. 		X 20	
Gestures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gestures are purposeful and effective. Hand motions are expressive and used to emphasize talking points. Confident posture with positive body language. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Usually uses purposeful gestures. Hands are sometimes used to express or emphasize. Occasionally slumps; sometimes negative body language. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extremely well-poised. Poised and in control at all times 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Usually well-poised. Poised and in control most of the time; rarely loses composure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isn't always well-poised. Sometimes seems to lose composure. 		X 20	
<i>Non-verbal Communication Total</i>						
Question Points — 300 points						
Supportive details/facts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speaks unrehearsed mostly with comfort and ease. Speaks quickly with organized thoughts and concise accurate answers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speaks mostly with comfort and ease, but sometimes seems to lack supporting details. Sometime gets off focus and uses less concise facts and examples. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shows nervousness or seems unprepared when speaking unrehearsed. Seems to ramble or speaks before thinking. Inaccurate or incomplete details. 		X 30	
Being detail-oriented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stays fully focused and detail-oriented. Always provides details that support the issue; is well organized. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stays mostly focused and detail-oriented. Usually provides details that are supportive of the issue; displays good organizational skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficulty staying focused and detail-oriented. Sometimes overlooks details that could be beneficial to the issue; lacks organization. 		X 30	
Questions Points						
<i>Non-verbal Communication Total Points</i>						
<i>Oral Communication Total Points (from pg. 1)</i>						
Time Deduction*						
NET TOTAL POINTS						
RANK						

* -1 point per second under four minutes or over six minutes as determined by the timekeepers.