NEW JERSEY FFA
CAREER AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

Essay Contest
2017-2021
Purpose
The purpose of the New Jersey FFA Essay Contest is to develop writing skills in members. By incorporating this event as part of the Agricultural Education Curriculum, all students will write in clear, concise, organized language that varies in content and form for different audiences and purpose, which is one of the NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards. The essay will be graded on content, grammar, and mechanics.

Event Rules
• Contestants may choose any current subject which is of an agricultural nature and of general interest to the public for their essays. Any essay not written on an agricultural issue will be disqualified. The essay is to be written in a technical or factual manner; opinionated papers will not be accepted. The purpose of each essay is to enlighten, explain, or instruct.
• There will be three divisions to separate the age and possible writing experience of the contestants.
  o Division I: The three to five page essay is open to all 9th and 10th grade FFA members.
  o Division II: The six to eight page essay is open to all members in 12th grade or lower.
  o Division III: The three to five page essay is open to all special needs members.
NOTE: A first place winner may not compete in that division again.
• Each contestant’s essay will be the result of the student’s own efforts. The attached sheet declares the effort is the sole work of the student. It must be signed by the student, chapter advisor, and parent/guardian in an effort to ensure honesty and must be submitted with the essay. This sheet will also declare Special Needs Division Certification with a signature from the child study team.
• All contestants should give credit to others where any direct quotes, phrases, or special data are used in the essay, in order to not be guilty of plagiarism. Footnotes are not necessary, but may be used, and references may be made in the content of the essay.
• Essays must include a bibliography or references (regardless of content or length), and a title page including Title of Essay, Division, Name of Student, Grade level, Teacher name, and Chapter name. (Title page and Bibliography are not counted in length of essay.) Essays without a bibliography and title page will be disqualified.
• The essay must have 1” margins, be double spaced, and be typed in 12-point font. The pages must also be numbered, along with the contestant’s name and chapter at the top of each page.
• The contest is only open to students who are enrolled in Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Education for the current calendar year, or who are still in high school but have completed all Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Education courses offered. When selected, contestants must be active members of a chartered FFA Chapter, who is in good standing with the New Jersey State FFA Association and the National FFA Organization.

Event Format
ESSAY
Essays (with title page, bibliography, and signature page) are to be uploaded to the State FFA Essay Event Application (via Jotform: https://www.jotform.com/NJFFA/state-essay-event). Essays are due April 1, or as outlined in the calendar of events.

Requirements:
• Formatted to 8 1/2” x 11” double spaced with a 1” margin
• Title page including:
• Title of Essay
• Division
• Name of Student
• Grade level
• Teacher name
• Chapter name

• Font size must be 12 point using a serif (Times New Roman, Cambria, etc.) or sans serif font (Ariel, Calibri, etc.)
• Follow most current APA style guide for developing a bibliography and in text citations
• Essays not meeting these guidelines will be penalized.

A complete and accurate bibliography should be included on a separate page, at the end of the essay. All participants in the New Jersey FFA Essay Contest should give credit to others where any direct quotes, phrases or special dates are used in the essay, in order not to be guilty of plagiarism.

SUBJECTS
Participants may choose any current subject of an agricultural nature for their essay. This may include the areas of agribusiness, animal systems, plant systems, environmental services, food products and processing, natural resource systems and power, structural and technical systems. A participant will be disqualified if he or she writes on a non-agricultural subject.

Awards
Awards will be presented to individuals based upon their rankings at the 5th general session of the New Jersey State FFA Convention. Awards are sponsored by the New Jersey FFA Foundation.

Individuals in each division will receive a plaque sponsored by the New Jersey FFA Foundation.

There will be no competition above the state level in the Essay Contest.

References
This list is not intended to be all inclusive.

• Purdue’s Online Writing Lab – APA Formatting Guide: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/
• United States Department of Agriculture – https://www.usda.gov/
• New Jersey Farm Bureau – https://njfb.org/
• First Pioneer Farm Credit East – https://www.farmcrediteast.com/
• Rutgers Cooperative Extension – https://njaes.rutgers.edu/extension/
State FFA Essay Event Verification
Must be completed and attached to essay

NAME

CHAPTER

ESSAY TITLE

I, ________________________________, do hereby swear that the attached essay is solely my work. I received no help in the research, planning, or writing of this essay. I have given credit where it is due throughout the essay and have attached a complete bibliography. I realize that if I am found guilty of having plagiarized materials in my essay, I am subject to the appropriate laws.

_________________________________________                    ________________________
STUDENT SIGNATURE            DATE

As Chapter Advisor, I have read the essay and agree that it appears free of plagiarism and is solely the work of the participant.

_________________________________________                    ________________________
ADVISOR SIGNATURE            DATE

As the parent/guardian of __________________________________________, I am aware of my child’s participation in this contest. I have read the attached essay and agree that it appears free of plagiarism and is solely the work of my child.

_________________________________________                    ________________________
PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE            DATE

As a member of the school’s Child Study Team, I certify that ______________________________ is a Special Needs Student and can qualify for the Special Needs Division of this contest.

_________________________________________                    ________________________
CHILD STUDY TEAM SIGNATURE            DATE
### Essay Contest Score Sheet

**600 points**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>CHAPTER</th>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Part I – Content</strong></th>
<th><strong>Points Allowed</strong></th>
<th><strong>Points Earned</strong></th>
<th><strong>Comments</strong></th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Effective Title</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sticks to Topic</td>
<td>75</td>
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<td>Maintains interest</td>
<td>75</td>
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<td>Logical organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Satisfying conclusion</td>
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<td><strong>Part I Total</strong></td>
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<th><strong>Part II – Mechanics</strong></th>
<th><strong>Points Allowed</strong></th>
<th><strong>Points Earned</strong></th>
<th><strong>Comments</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Title Page</td>
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<tr>
<td>Punctuation (-5 each)</td>
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<td>Capitals (-5 each)</td>
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<td>Paragraph formation (-5 each)</td>
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<td>Spelling (-5 each)</td>
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<td>Sentence formation &amp; Clarity (-5 each)</td>
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<td>Word usage (-5 each)</td>
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<td><strong>Part II Total</strong></td>
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| **Part I** | **300** |
| **Part II**| **300** |
| **Grand Total** | **600** |

JUDGE’S NAME: __________________________

RANK: ______________