

FFA CREED Career Development Event

The Creed CDE is designed to develop leadership through providing for member participation in speaking and interpreting the creed. The state competition will be held in connection with the state convention in St. Paul on Tuesday. The competition will consist of a preliminary round of eighteen contestants and final round of six contestants.

I. GENERAL PLAN

The preliminary CDEs are of local and regional character, and are held under the auspices of the FFA unit concerned. These preliminary events culminate in the state CDE held at the time of the State FFA Convention. All sub-state CDEs should follow the rules of the State Creed CDE. The State FFA Foundation will give appropriate awards.

II. ELIGIBILITY

- A. The state CDE will be limited to participation by three members representing each region who shall have been determined winners in a regional CDE held prior to the state CDE. A chapter can have only one participant at the State Event.
- B. The state CDE will be open to active chapter members who are in the 7th to 9th grade during the current school year and meet eligibility requirements on page 1 of the General CDE Rules and Procedures. When selected, contestants must be active members of chartered FFA chapters in good standing with the State Association.
- C. It is expected that each contestant will take advantage of all available training facilities in the local school in developing speaking ability; facts and working data may be secured from any source.
- D. A contestant must wear Official Dress when competing in the CDE.

III. TIME LIMIT

Each contestant must recite the creed from memory. Five minutes time will be allowed each contestant in which to defend his/her recitation on questions that shall be asked by the judges.

IV. METHOD OF SELECTING WINNER

- A. The appointed CDE chairpersons will be in charge of the state CDE.
- B. Contestants will be divided into three groups by the State FFA Coordinator for the preliminary round. They will be assigned to a group and time slot based on their regional qualifying rank. The program chairperson shall then introduce each contestant by name only, in order of the competition. A contestant 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. Applause shall be withheld until all contestants have spoken.
- C. The top two contestants in each group from the first round will advance to the finals. The final round of competition will be held immediately following the preliminary round.
- D. A timekeeper shall be designated who will record the time used by each contestant in answering the judges' questions.

E. At least three competent and impartial persons will be selected to judge the CDE. At least one judge should have an agricultural background.

F. Prior to the CDE, the judges will be furnished with copies of the rules and scoring rubric.

G. At the time of the CDE, the judges will be seated in different sections of the room in which the CDE is held. They will score each contestant upon the delivery of the creed, using the score sheet provided. Contestants may not request that no one be able to watch their presentation. The preliminary round will be closed to the public. The finals round will be open to the public.

G. Each judge shall ask questions from the list. Questions shall pertain directly to the creed. Questions containing two or more parts should be avoided. Judges will score each contestant on his/her ability to answer all questions asked by all judges.

H. When all contestants have finished speaking, each judge will total his/her score on answers to questions and delivery for each contestant.

I. Contestants shall be ranked in numerical order on basis of final score to be determined by each judge without consultation with each other. The judges' ranking of each contestant then shall be added and the winner will be that contestant whose total of rankings is the lowest. Other placings shall be determined in the same manner (Low point score method of selection.) In case of a tie that individual who has the highest grand total score shall have prior rating.

EXPLANATION OF SCORING RUBRIC

Part I. For Scoring Delivery

- | | |
|---|--|
| A. VOICE includes:
Quality Pitch
Articulation
Pronunciation

Force | C. POWER OF EXPRESSION includes:
Fluency Sincerity
Emphasis Communicative ability
Directness Conveyance of thought and meaning |
| B. STAGE PRESENCE includes:
Personal appearance
Poise and body posture
Confidence
Personality
Ease before audience | D. RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS includes:
*Ability to satisfactorily answer the questions on the speech that are asked by the judges indicating an understanding of the Creed.

E. GENERAL EFFECT includes:
Extend to which the Creed is interesting, understanding, convincing, pleasing and held attention. |

Part II. Response to questions.

*Ability to satisfactorily answer the questions of the judges showing an understanding of the Creed.

CREED QUESTIONS

It is recommended that the judges meet prior to the contest to prepare and clarify the questions to be asked. Judges will put together a sequence of identical questions to ask all contestants. Five minutes will be allowed for questions.

Discussion questions will be selected from the following:

PARAGRAPH I

1. What reasons are there for believing in the future of agriculture?
2. What do you believe the future of agriculture holds for you?
3. What is meant by the statement, "With a faith born not of words but of deeds"?
4. What are some of the important "achievements won by the present and past generations of agriculturists"?
5. How can we have "better days through better ways"?
6. What are some of the "better things we now enjoy that have come up to us from the struggle of former years"?

PARAGRAPH II

1. What is meant by "engaged in other agricultural pursuits"?
2. What is challenging about living and working on a good farm?
3. What do you believe constitutes a good farm"?
4. What are some of the "joys of agricultural life"?
5. What are some of the "discomforts of agricultural life"?
6. What is meant by the statement "and hold an inborn fondness for those associations which, even in hours of discouragement, I cannot deny"?

PARAGRAPH III

1. Why is leadership so important?
2. What can you do as a freshman in agriculture to develop leadership ability?
3. What can you do to merit "respect from others"?
4. What can you do to make your work more efficient?
5. What can you do to develop the ability to think clearly?
6. What is meant by "progressive agriculturists"?
7. How can progressive agriculturists serve themselves and the public interest in marketing the products of their toil?

PARAGRAPH IV

11. What is meant by the “power in bargaining”?
12. What is the difference between begging and bargaining?
13. What is meant by “the life abundant”?
14. What is meant by “honest wealth”?
15. What are some examples of wealth that are not honest?
16. What can you do to help others have an abundant life, and the honest wealth to help make it so?
17. Could one have an abundant life without wealth?
18. What is meant by “less need for charity and more of it when needed”?
19. Why is it important for each of us to be happy?
10. Why is it important to play square with those whose happiness depends upon us?
11. Whose happiness depends upon you?

PARAGRAPH V

1. What are some of the “best traditions in our national life to which rural American agriculture will hold true”?
2. What can you do, as a freshman in agriculture, to exert an influence in your home and in your community which will stand solid for your part in that inspiring task?

GENERAL

1. Who wrote the FFA Creed?
2. When was it adopted officially by the FFA?
3. How would/could/should the principles of the FFA Creed influence your community and leadership actions?

The FFA Creed

I believe in the future of agriculture, with a faith born not of words but of deeds - achievements won by the present and past generations of agriculturists; in the promise of better days through better ways, even as the better things we now enjoy have come to us from the struggles of former years.

I believe that to live and work on a good farm, or to be engaged in other agricultural pursuits, is pleasant as well as challenging; for I know the joys and discomforts of agricultural life and hold an inborn fondness for those associations which, even in hours of discouragement, I cannot deny.

I believe in leadership from ourselves and respect from others. I believe in my own ability to work efficiently and think clearly, with such knowledge and skill as I can secure, and in the ability of progressive agriculturists to serve our own and the public interest in producing and marketing the product of our toil.

I believe in less dependence on begging and more power in bargaining; in the life abundant and enough honest wealth to help make it so--for others as well as myself; in less need for charity and more of it when needed; in being happy myself and playing square with those whose happiness depends upon me.

I believe that American agriculture can and will hold true to the best traditions of our national life and that I can exert an influence in my home and community which will stand solid for my part in that inspiring task.

The creed was written by E. M. Tiffany, and adopted at the 3rd National Convention of the FFA. It was revised at the 38th Convention and the 63rd Convention.

Creed Speaking CDE Presentation Rubric - 500 points possible

FFA Member Name _____

Chapter Name _____

Judge's Contestant Placing _____

Oral Communication – 100 points				Points Earned
Indicators	Very strong evidence skill is present	Moderate evidence skill is present	Strong evidence skill is not present	
A. Speaking without hesitation	Speaks very articulately without hesitation. • Never has the need for unnecessary pauses or hesitation when speaking. 35-40 points	Speaks articulately, sometimes hesitates, shows some nervousness • Occasionally has the need for a long pause or moderate hesitation when speaking. 20-34 points	Speaks articulately, but frequently hesitates, shows nervousness • Frequently hesitates or has long, awkward pauses while speaking. 0-19 points	/Out of 40
B. Accuracy	Recites creed without any errors, as it was written. 21-30 points	Recites creed with a minor word errors or omissions. 11-20 points	Recites creed with a major word errors or omissions 0-10 points	/Out of 30
D. Voice Quality	Voice is upbeat, impassioned and under control. Pronunciation of words is very clear and intent is apparent. Emitted a clear, audible voice for the audience present. 21-30 points	Voice is somewhat upbeat, impassioned and under control. Pronunciation of words is usually clear, sometimes mumbled. Emitted a somewhat clear, audible voice for the audience present 11-20 points	Voice is not upbeat; lacks passion and control. Pronunciation of words is difficult to understand; unclear Emitted a barely audible voice for the audience present 0-10 points	/Out of 30
Non-verbal Communication – 200 points				
A. Attention (eye contact)	Eye contact consistently used as an effective component. • Constantly looks at the entire audience (90-100% of the time). 35-50 Points	Eye contact is mostly effective and consistent. • Mostly looks around the audience (60-80% of the time). 15-34 Points	Eye contact does not always allow connection with the speaker. • Occasionally looks at someone or some groups (less than 50% of the time). 0-14 Points	/Out of 50
B. Mannerisms	Does not have distracting mannerisms that affect effectiveness. • No nervous habits. 35-50 Points	Sometimes has distracting mannerisms that pull from the presentation. • Sometimes exhibits nervous habits or ticks. 15-34 Points	Has mannerisms that pull from the effectiveness of the presentation. • Displays some nervous habits – fidgets or anxious ticks. 0-14 Points	/Out of 50
C. Gestures	Gestures are purposeful and effective. • Hand motions are expressive and used to emphasize talking points. • Great posture (confident) with positive body language. 35-50 Points	Usually uses purposeful gestures. • Hands are sometimes used to express or emphasize. • Occasionally stumps; sometimes negative body language. 15-34 Points	Occasionally gestures are used effectively. • Hands are not used to emphasize talking points; hand motions are sometimes distracting. • Lacks positive body language; slumps. 0-14 Points	/Out of 50
D. Well poised / Official dress	Is extremely well poised. • Poised and in control at all times. • Dressed in all aspects of Official Dress. 35-50 Points	Usually is well poised. • Poised and in control most of the time; rarely loses composure. • Missing minor aspects of Official Dress, 15-34 Points	Isn't always well poised. • Sometimes seems to lose composure. • Missing major aspects of Official Dress, 0-14 Points	/Out of 50
Question and Answer – 200 points				
A. Being detail-oriented	Is able to stay fully detail-oriented. • Always provides details which support answers/basis of the question. 50-75 Points	Is mostly good at being detail-oriented. • Usually provides details which are supportive of the answers/basis of the question. 25-49 Points	Has difficulty being detail-oriented. • Sometimes overlooks details that could be very beneficial to the answers/basis of the question. 0-24 Points	/Out of 75
B. Speaking unrehearsed	Speaks unrehearsed with comfort and ease. • Is able to speak quickly with organized thoughts and concise answers. 50-75 Points	Speaks unrehearsed mostly with comfort and ease, but sometimes seems nervous or unsure. • Is able to speak effectively, has to stop and think and sometimes gets off focus. 25-49 Points	Shows nervousness or seems unprepared when speaking unrehearsed. • Seems to ramble or speaks before thinking. 0-24 Points	/Out of 75
C. Examples used in response to questions	Examples are vivid, precise and clearly explained. • Examples are original, logical and relevant. 35-50 Points	Examples are usually concrete, some-times needs clarification. • Examples are effective, but need more originality or thought. 15-34 Points	Examples are abstract or not clearly defined. • Examples are sometimes confusing, leaving the listeners with questions. 0-14 Points	/Out of 50
Judges Comments:				Contestant's Total Points
				500 possible