



CREED SPEAKING

2017-2021



NATIONAL FFA
CAREER AND LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

Purpose

The FFA Creed outlines the organization’s beliefs regarding the industry of agriculture, FFA membership and the value of citizenship and patriotism. The Creed is recited by FFA members as part of the requirements to earn the Greenhand FFA Degree. The purpose of the Creed speaking leadership development event is to develop the public speaking abilities of seventh, eighth and ninth grade FFA members as well as to develop their self-confidence and contribute to their advancement in the FFA degree program.

Event Rules

The complete rules, policies and procedures relevant to all National FFA Career and Leadership Development Events may be found in the [Introduction to the Career and Leadership Development Events Handbook](#).

The National FFA Creed Speaking Leadership Development Event will be limited to one participant per state. The participant must qualify in grades 7, 8 or 9. The participant must compete at the next national convention following their state qualifying round.

- It is highly recommended that participants wear FFA Official Dress for this event.
- Three to five competent and impartial persons will be selected to judge the event. At least one judge should have an agricultural/FFA background. Any advisor who has a student competing in a speaking event may not serve as a judge for that respective speaking event.
- Each state association is to provide a judge for the preliminary and potentially semifinal rounds of the event.
- Any participant in possession of any electronic device is subject to disqualification.

Event Format

The event will include an oral presentation and answering critical thinking questions directly related to the Creed.

Each participant will be asked three questions per round with a five-minute total time limit. The questions used will change as the participant progresses to semifinal and final rounds of the event. The questions will be formulated annually by the Creed speaking leadership development superintendent and will avoid two-part questions.

Members will present the Creed from the current year’s Official FFA Manual.

The event will be a timed activity with four minutes for presentation. After four minutes, the participant will have one point deducted for every second over the set time.

The national event will be conducted in three rounds: preliminary (consisting of five to eight speakers per section), semifinals (two sections of eight speakers each) and finals (four participants). The top two speakers from each preliminary section will advance to the semifinals. The top two speakers from the semifinal sections will advance to the final round. No ranking will be given except for the final four. Feedback for all participants will be distributed at the awards function.

Event officials will randomly determine the speaking order. The room facilitator will introduce each participant by participant number and state association in order of the drawing. No props are to be used.

Applause shall be withheld until all participants have spoken.

Each participant must recite the Creed from memory. Each participant shall begin the presentation by stating, “The FFA Creed by E.M. Tiffany.” Each CDE participant shall end the presentation with the statement, “... that inspiring task. Thank you.” Additional introductory or concluding remarks will result in accuracy deductions as indicated on the scorecard.

Participants will be held in isolation until their presentation. Participants will not be allowed to have contact with any outside persons.

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 Creed and responses using the rubric provided.

Timekeepers will be designated to record the time used by each participant in delivering his/her speech. Content accuracy judges will record the number of recitation errors during delivery.

When participants have finished the presentation and answering of questions, each judge will total the score of each speaker. The timekeepers’ and accuracy judges’ records will be used in computing the final score for each participant. The judges’ score sheets will then be submitted to event officials to determine final rankings of participants.

Participants will be ranked in numerical order based on the final score to be determined by each judge without consultation. The judges’ rankings 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 in the same manner (use the low-point score method of selection).

During preliminary and semifinal rounds, recording of presentations is permitted by one person from each participant’s association for that participant only.

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, then the event superintendent will rank the participants’ responses to questions. The participant with the greatest number of low ranks from the response to questions will be declared the winner. If a tie still exists, then 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 at the awards ceremony to individuals based upon their rankings.

Awards are sponsored by cooperating industry sponsors as a special project and/or by the general fund of the National FFA Foundation.

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. Make sure to use discretion when selecting website references by only using reputable, proven sites. The following list contains references that may prove helpful during event preparation. The most current edition of resources will be used.

- Past finals hall footage are available by logging in to [FFA.org/participate/ldes/creed-speaking](https://www.ffa.org/participate/ldes/creed-speaking).
- National FFA Core Catalog: Developing Great Speeches Guide
- Current year’s Official FFA Manual, [FFA.org](https://www.ffa.org)

THE FFA CREED SPEAKER SCRIPT

THE FOLLOWING IS EXACTLY WHAT MUST BE RECITED:

“The FFA Creed by E.M. Tiffany

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.

Thank you”

ALL RECITATION ERRORS (MISSED WORDS) MUST BE CIRCLED

Total # of Recitation Errors
(missed, added or switched words)

Question Time:

Determination of Deductions

Number of errors ___ x 2 = _____

Total Deduction:



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 LDE Presentation Rubric

100 POINTS

Participant # _____

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 Points
Oral Communication – 30 points						
Pace	Speaks very articulately at rate that engages audience.	Speaks articulately but occasionally speaks too fast or has long unnecessary hesitations	Speaks too slow or too fast to engage audience		X 2	
Tone	Voice is upbeat, impassioned and under control	Voice is somewhat upbeat, impassioned and under control	Voice is not upbeat; lacks passion and control		X 2	
Volume	Emitted a clear, audible voice for the audience present	Emitted a somewhat clear, audible voice for the audience present	Emitted a barely audible voice for the audience present		X 2	
Non-verbal Communication – 30 points						
Eye contact	Eye contact constantly used as an effective connection Constantly looks at the entire audience (90–100 percent of the time)	Eye contact is mostly effective and consistent Mostly looks around the audience (60–80 percent of the time)	Eye contact does not always allow connection with the speaker Occasionally looks at someone or some groups (less than 50 percent of the time)		X 2	
Mannerisms and gestures	Hand motions are expressive and used to emphasize talking points No nervous habits	Sometimes exhibits nervous habits Hands are sometimes used to express or emphasize	Displays some nervous habits Hands are not used to emphasize talking points; hand motions are sometimes distracting		X 2	
Poise	Portrays confidence and composure through appropriate body language (stance, posture, facial expressions)	Maintains control most of the time; rarely loses composure	Lacks confidence and composure		X 2	

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(Version Feb. 2020)

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 Points
Question and Answer—40 points						
Response to questions	Responds with organized thoughts and concise answers	Speaks effectively and sometimes gets off topic Answers lacks organization	Response fails to answer question		X 2	
Support	Always provides details that support answers/basis of the question	Usually provides details that are supportive of the answers/basis of the question	Sometimes overlooks details that could be very beneficial to the answers/basis of the question		X 3	
Knowledge of agriculture	Answer shows knowledge of agriculture	Answer shows limited knowledge of agriculture	Answer shows no knowledge of agriculture		X 3	
<i>Gross Total Points</i>						
Time Deduction*						
Accuracy Deduction**						
NET TOTAL POINTS						
RANK						

* -1 point per second over 4 minutes, determined by the timekeepers

** - 2 points per word, determined by the accuracy judges

Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Content Standards

Measurements Assessed	Event Activities Addressing Measurements	Related Academic Standards
CRP.04.01. Performance Indicator: Speak using strategies that ensure clarity, logic, purpose and professionalism in formal and informal settings.		
CRP.04.01.01.a. Identify and categorize strategies for ensuring clarity, logic, purpose and professionalism in verbal and non-verbal communication (e.g., vocal tone, organization of thoughts, eye contact, preparation, etc.).	Entire event	
CRP.04.01.02.b. Apply strategies for speaking with clarity, logic, purpose and professionalism in a variety of situations in formal and informal settings.	Entire event	
CRP.04.03. Performance Indicator: Model active listening strategies when interacting with others in formal and informal settings.		
CRP.04.03.01.b. Apply active listening strategies (e.g., be attentive, observe non-verbal cues, ask clarifying questions, etc.).	Entire event	
CRP.04.03. Performance Indicator: Model active listening strategies when interacting with others in formal and informal settings.		
CRP.04.03.01.b. Apply active listening strategies (e.g., be attentive, observe non-verbal cues, ask clarifying questions, etc.).	Entire event	
CRP.04.03.02.c. Model active listening strategies in formal and informal settings.	Entire event	