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**PREPARED PUBLIC SPEAKING**

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**Revised 6/2015****Purpose and Standards**

The purpose of the Prepared Public Speaking Career Development Event is to foster and develop the speaking abilities of FFA members as well as develop their self confidence and contribute to their advancement in inter-personal skill attainment and leadership development.

Foundation Standards: Communications – Reading 2.0, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8. Writing 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 2.3, 2.6. Written and Oral English Language Conventions 1.1, 1.2, 1.3. Listening and Speaking 1.1, 1.8, 2.2, 2.3.

**Contestants**

- I. Each section will determine how many chapter members may participate at the sectional level. Each region will determine how many sectional participants may compete at the regional level. Participation at the state level is limited to the top 50% of those that participate in the regional contest (or major portion thereof), with a maximum of four (4) per region.
- II. This contest will be open to students less than 21 years of age who were regularly enrolled in agricultural education during the current calendar year or who are still in high school but have completed all the agricultural education offered. When selected, contestants must be active members of chartered FFA chapters in good standing with the State Association and the National Organization.

**Tie Breaker**

In case of a tie, that individual who has the highest grand total score shall have prior rating.

**Rules****III. General Plan**

- A. The preliminary contests are local, sectional and regional in nature. All regional and state contests must follow the rules of the National Public Speaking Contest. Judges will not question participants at the local or sectional level without prior agreement among the agriculture instructors concerned.

**III. Eligibility**

- A. Each contestant's written production will be the result of their own efforts. It is expected that they will take advantage of all available training facilities in the local school in developing their speaking and writing ability. Facts and working data may be secured from any source.
  1. Regional and state contestants are required to file with their regional supervisor, through their teachers of vocational agriculture (on the dates specified by the regional supervisor), the following materials:
    - a. A double spaced typewritten copies of the speech on 8 1/2 x 11" white paper with cover page that gives the speech title, participant's name, chapter and date (unless otherwise directed by the regional supervisor). The body of the manuscript will have 1" margins. Font size must be 12 point using Arial or other sans serif font. Do not bind, but place a staple in the upper left corner. The bibliography will follow APA style manual for developing references. Manuscripts not meeting these guidelines could be penalized.
    - b. Electronic copy of the manuscript for use in forwarding to the judges.
- B. Public Speaking contestants will adhere to the official FFA dress uniform at all levels of participation.
- C. A student may not participate in the Prepared Public Speaking, Extemporaneous Public Speaking, Impromptu Speaking, Creed Recitation, or Job Interview Contests in the same year.
- D. A contestant who is not present at the time of drawing for speaking order shall not be eligible for the contest.

**V. Subjects**

- A. Contestants may choose their own subjects for their speeches. Any current subject of

agriculture which is of interest to the agricultural sector will be acceptable. A topic which centers on leadership and/or FFA experiences is acceptable. References made to FFA and SOEP experiences, as they pertain to the subject, are encouraged. Participants using a topic on a non-related agriculture subject will be disqualified.

#### VI. Time Limit

- A. Each speech shall be a minimum of six minutes in length and a maximum of eight minutes. Each contestant will be allowed five minutes additional time in which they will be asked questions relating to their speech. Deductions of 20 points per minute, or major fraction thereof, will be made from the score of each judge for speeches under six minutes or over eight minutes in length. (To prevent being penalized, a contestant must speak over five minutes, 30 seconds and under eight minutes, 30 seconds).

#### VII. Methods of Selecting Winner

- A. Local contests will be under the direction of the local agriculture teacher.
- B. Sectional contests will be under the direction of the Sectional FFA Advisor and regional contests will be under the direction of the Regional Supervisor concerned.
- C. Contestants shall draw for placement on the program. If more than eight students are competing in the contest a preliminary round should be held. The program chairman shall then introduce each speaker by name and title of the speech only, in order of drawing. A contestant will be permitted to use notes while speaking, but deduction in scoring will be made for this practice. Applause shall be withheld until all contestants have spoken.
- D. Timekeepers shall be designated who will record the time used by each contestant in delivering his/her speech, noting undertime and overtime, if any, for which deductions should be made. Timekeeper(s) should be sitting together.
- E. Prior to the State Finals contest, the judges will be furnished with a copy of the contest rules and typewritten copies of the contestants' productions, which they will read and develop their questions.
- F. At the time of the contest the judges will be seated in different sections of the room in which the contest is held. They will score each contestant upon delivery of the production, using the score sheet provided.
- G. Each judge shall formulate and ask questions. Questions shall pertain directly to the speaker's subject. Questions containing two or more parts should be avoided. Judges will score each contestant on his/her ability to answer all questions asked by judges.
- H. When all contestants have finished speaking, each judge will total his/her score on composition and delivery for each contestant. The timekeeper's record will be used in computing the final score for each contestant.
- I. Prior to the State Finals contest, the content and composition of all manuscripts will be judged by three (3) qualified individuals using the appropriate score sheet. Manuscript scores will be averaged and provided to the presentation judges after they have scored the oral presentation.
- J. Contestants shall be ranked in numerical order on basis of final score to be determined by each judge without consultation with each other. Judges may ask each other to clarify a given question response from speakers prior to ranking the contestants.
- K. The judges' ranking on each contestant then shall be added by the contest superintendent in view of the three judges and the winner shall be the contestant whose total ranking is the lowest. Other placings shall be determined in the same manner (low points score method of selection). In case of a tie, that individual who has the highest grand total score shall have prior rating.
- L. Contestants are not permitted to use any type of prop, chart, graph, computer, visual aide and/or musical playing instrument/equipment during their speech.

#### VIII. Awards

- A. Awards will be presented to contestants by the organization of the Future Farmers of America and the Future Farmers of America Foundation, Inc., through the intercession of the contest administrator concerned.

#### IX. Dissipation of Scores

- A. Students and advisors should have an opportunity to see all score cards, a final scorecard, or a judges comment card to enable a better understanding of what the judges did and did not like.

#### **Explanation of Score Sheet Points**

##### X. Part I - For Scoring Content and Composition

- A. Content of the manuscript includes:
  - 1. Purpose
  - 2. Content
  - 3. Use of References
  - 4. Quality of References

5. Use of Most Recent Edition of the American Psychological Association (APA) Manual
- B. Composition of the manuscript includes:
1. Organization
  2. Feel and Tone
  3. Sentence Structure
  4. Word Choice
  5. Grammar, Spelling, Writing Mechanics
- XI. Part II - For Scoring Delivery of Production
- A. Voice includes:
1. Quality
  2. Pitch
  3. Articulation
  4. Pronunciation
  5. Force
- B. Stage presence includes:
1. Personal appearance
  2. Poise and body posture
  3. Attitude
  4. Confidence
  5. Personality
  6. Ease before audience
- C. Power of expression includes:
1. Fluency
  2. Emphasis
  3. Directness
  4. Sincerity
  5. Communicative ability
  6. Conveyance of thought and meaning
  7. Memorization
- D. Response to questions includes:
1. Ability to satisfactorily answer the questions of the speech which are asked by the judges indicating originality, familiarity with subject and ability to think quickly. (Judges should meet prior to the contest to prepare and clarify the questions to be asked.)
- E. General effect includes:
1. Extent to which the speech was interesting, understandable, convincing, pleasing and held audience's attention.

**Prepared Public Speaking CDE Manuscript Rubric – 250 points**

Evaluation Criteria	Very strong evidence skill is present 5-4	Moderate evidence skill is present 3-2	Strong evidence skill is not Present 1-0	Weight	Total Score
Manuscript Content					100 possible points
Topic is important and appropriate					50 points
Current topic of interest	Topic is current or a strong evidence of personal involvement in the topic is expressed.	Topic is dated or some evidence of personal involvement has been expressed.	Topic is irrelevant for the times or unrelated to personal involvement.	x5	
Topic is relevant and within the scope of identified subjects in the CDE guide	Topic addresses an issue facing the industry of agriculture.	Topic addresses an issue that may show some relationship to the industry of agriculture.	Topic addresses an issue that is unrelated to the industry of agriculture.	x5	
Suitability of materials used					50 points
Validity of resources	Resources are from reputable sources.	Resources are from questionable sources.	Resources are from unreliable sources.	x5	
Accuracy of content	Manuscript reflects accurate statements from resources.	Manuscript reflects some misinterpretation of resource materials.	Manuscript does not reflect accurate statements based on the resources provided.	x5	
Total points for this section					
Manuscript Composition					150 possible points
Organization and development of content					75 points
Examples	Examples are vivid, precise and clearly explained.  Examples are original, logical and relevant.	Examples are usually concrete, sometimes needs clarification. Examples are effective, but need more originality or thought.	Examples are abstract or not clearly defined.  Examples are sometimes confusing, leaving the listeners with questions.	x5	
	Is able to stay fully detail	Is mostly good at being detail	Has difficulty being detail oriented.		

Being detail oriented	oriented. Always provides details which support the issue; is well organized.	oriented. Usually provides details which are supportive of the issue; displays good organizational skills.	Sometimes overlooks details that could be very beneficial to the issue; lacks organization.	x5	
Accomplishment of purpose	The style chosen has obviously been well thought out based on the specific audience.	Most language is appropriate for the intended audience.	Some language used might be confusing for some audiences.	x5	
Grammatical accuracy					35 points
Spelling/grammar (sentence structure, verb agreement, etc.)	Spelling and grammar are extremely high quality with 2 or less errors in the document.	Spelling and grammar are adequate with 3-5 errors in the document.	Spelling and grammar are less than adequate with 6 or more errors in the document.	x7	
Manuscript written according to event format rule #1	5 points		0 points		40 points
Double-spaced on 8 1/2"x 11" white bond paper				x2	
12 point Arial or sans serif font					
1" margins in the body of the paper.				x2	
Cover page with speech title, participant's name, state and year.					
APA style for references and bibliography As found on Purdueowl.com online writing.				x4	
Total points for this section					
Grand Total Points					

### Prepared Public Speaking CDE Presentation Rubric – 450 points

Indicators	Very strong evidence skill is present 5-4	Moderate evidence skill is present 3-2	Strong evidence skill is not present 1-0	Points Earned	Weight	Total Score
Oral Communication						250 possible points
A. Speaking without hesitation	Speaks very articulately without hesitation.  Never has the need for unnecessary pauses or hesitation when speaking.	Speaks articulately, but sometimes hesitates.  Occasionally has the need for a long pause or moderate hesitation when speaking.	Speaks articulately, but frequently hesitates.  Frequently hesitates or has long, awkward pauses while speaking.		x 10	
C. Tone	Appropriate tone is consistent. Speaks at the right pace to be clear.  Pronunciation of words is very clear and intent is apparent.	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.	Has difficulty using an appropriate tone.  Pace is too fast; nervous. Pronunciation of words is difficult to understand; unclear.		x 15	
D. Command of Audience	Speaker uses power of presentation to engage and captivate the audience with the message of the speech.	Speaker presents speech as mere repeating of facts and speech comes across as a report	Speaker bores the audience with lack of enthusiasm and power to deliver the speech.		x 15	
E. Connect and articulate facts and issues	Exemplary in connecting facts and issues and articulating how they impact the issue locally and globally.  Possesses a strong knowledge base and is able to effectively articulate information regarding related facts and current issues.	Sufficient in connecting facts and issues and articulating how they impact the issue locally and globally.  Possesses a good knowledge base and is able to, for the most part, articulate information regarding related facts and current issues.	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 10	
Non-verbal Communication						200 possible points
A. Attention	Eye contact constantly used as an effective connection.	Eye contact is mostly effective and consistent.	Eye contact does not always allow connection with the speaker.		x 10	

(eye contact)	Constantly looks at the entire audience (90-100% of the time).	Mostly looks around the audience (60-80% of the time).	Occasionally looks at someone or some groups (less than 50% of the time).			
B. Mannerisms	Does not have distracting mannerisms that affect effectiveness. No nervous habits.	Sometimes has distracting mannerisms that pull from the presentation. Sometimes exhibits nervous habits or ticks.	Have mannerisms that pull from the effectiveness of the presentation. Displays some nervous habits – fidgets or anxious ticks.		x 10	
C. Gestures	Gestures are purposeful and effective. Hand motions are expressive and used to emphasize talking points. Great posture (confident) with positive body language.	Usually uses purposeful gestures. Hands are sometimes used to express or emphasize. Occasionally slumps; sometimes negative body language.	Occasionally gestures are used effectively. Hands are not used to emphasize talking points; hand motions are sometimes distracting. Lacks positive body language; slumps.		x 10	
D. Well-poised	Is extremely well-poised. Poised and in control at all times.	Usually is well-poised. Poised and in control most of the time; rarely loses composure.	Isn't always well-poised. Sometimes seems to lose composure.		x 10	
			TOTAL			

### Prepared Public Speaking CDE Response to Questions Rubric – 300 points

Indicators	Very strong evidence skill is present 5 - 4	Moderate evidence skill is present 3 - 2	Strong evidence skill is not present 1 - 0	Points Earned	Weight	Total Score
Response to Questions						300 possible points
A. Speaking unrehearsed (question and answer)	Speaks unrehearsed with comfort and ease. Is able to speak quickly with organized thoughts and concise answers.	Speaks unrehearsed mostly with comfort and ease, but sometimes seems nervous or unsure. Is able to speak effectively, has to stop and think, and some- times gets off focus.	Shows nervousness or seems unprepared when speaking unrehearsed. Seems to ramble or speaks before thinking.		x 10	
B. Demonstrates knowledge of topic	Answer shows thorough knowledge of the subject of the speech. Supports answer with strong evidence.	Answer shows some knowledge of the subject. Some evidence, but lacking in strength.	Answer shows little knowledge of the subject. Evidence is lacking to support the answer.		x 40	
C. Examples	Examples are vivid, precise and clearly explained. Examples are original, logical and relevant.	Examples are usually concrete, sometimes needs clarification. Examples are effective, but need more originality or thought.	Examples are abstract or not clearly defined. Examples are sometimes confusing, leaving the listeners with questions.		x 5	
D. Being detail oriented	Is able to stay fully detail oriented. Always provides details which support the issue; is well organized.	Is mostly good at being detail oriented. Usually provides details which are supportive of the issue; displays good organizational skills.	Has difficulty being detail oriented. Sometimes overlooks details that could be very beneficial to the issue; lacks organization.		x 5	

### Prepared Public Speaking CDE Official Scorecard

	Maximum Points	Participant 1:	Participant 2:	Participant 3:	Participant 4:	Participant 5:	Participant 6:	Participant 7:	Participant 8:
Evaluation									

Criteria									
A. Verbal Communication Skills (from rubric) - 250 possible points									
Speaking without hesitation	50								
Tone	75								
Command of audience	75								
Connecting and articulating facts and issues	50								
B. Non-verbal Communication Skills (from rubric) - 200 possible points									
Attention (eye contact)	50								
Mannerisms	50								
Gestures	50								
Well poised	50								
C. Response to Questions (from rubric) - 300 possible points									
Speaking unrehearsed	50								
Knowledge of Topic	200								
Use of examples	25								
Being detailed oriented	25								
Subtotal points	750								
Less time deductions	Provided by room coordinator								
Net communication skills score									
Manuscript Score	250								
Net Total Points	1000								
Participant Ranking									