



NATIONAL
FFA ORGANIZATION

Idaho Creed Speaking Handbook 2017-2021

Purpose

To develop public speaking and agricultural leadership for younger members in the FFA organization by providing the opportunity to recite from memory the FFA creed.

Objectives

- To develop in individuals the ability to effectively orally deliver the FFA Creed from memory.
- To develop in individuals the ability to answer impromptu questions about the content of the FFA Creed.

General Rules

1. The state FFA Creed Speaking CDE will be limited to the winning participant in each of the FFA districts during the current school year.
2. Participants must be 7th, 8th or 9th graders enrolled in agriculture.
3. Members may only participate at the state level once.
4. The State FFA Creed Speaking Career Development Event will be held at the State Leadership Conference.
5. Participants must memorize the Creed and shall use only “The FFA Creed” by E.M. Tiffany as an introduction and close with “Thank You.”
6. Agriculture instructors representing each of the ten FFA districts will judge the preliminary event.
7. In the preliminary round all judges will judge all speakers and the high and low rank will be discarded for each participant. The final rank will be determined by tallying the remaining seven ranks for each participant.
8. In the final competition, the top four participants will present the creed on stage during one of the main sessions. Members will not use a microphone in the final round.
9. There will be two questions asked of the participants in the preliminary round and three questions in the final round.
10. Participants in need of special accommodations (disability or other health issues) must submit the Idaho State FFA Career Development Events Request for Special Accommodation Application found at the end of the General Rules and Regulations at least one month prior to the event.

Format and Scoring

1. In the preliminary round each participant will be asked two questions pertaining to the FFA Creed and allowed one minute to respond to each question. (Time will be called at one minute per question).
2. In the final round, each participant will be asked three questions and allowed one minute to respond to each question. (Time will be called at one minute per question). Questions should come from the content of the creed and how it relates to the individual.
3. Participants will not hear the other responses to the questions.
4. A deduction of two (2) points per word missed will be assessed.
5. A deduction of one (1) point per second over will be assessed.

Tie Breakers

Ties will be broken based on the greatest number of low ranks. The participant’s 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 participant’s 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 then the participant’s raw scores will be totaled. The participant with the greatest total of raw points will be declared the winner.

Awards

Awards are presented to the top four individuals.

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 CDE materials, finals hall footage and other resources are available by logging in to <https://www.ffa.org/participate/cdes/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

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.

Creed Speaking LDE Presentation Rubric

100 points

Participant #

INDICATORS	Very strong evidence of skill is present 5–4 points	Moderate evidence of skill is present 3–2 points	Strong evidence of skill is not present 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	
Question and Answer—40 points						
Response to questions	Is able to respond with organized thoughts and concise answers.	Is able to speak effectively and sometimes gets off topic. Answer lacks organization.	Response fails to answer question.		X 2	
Support	Always provides details which support answers/basis of the question.	Usually provides details which 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	
					Gross Total Points	
					Time Deduction*	
					Accuracy Deduction**	
					NET TOTAL POINTS	
					RANK	

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

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