**Prepared Public Speaking CDE**

**Purpose**
The Prepared Public Speaking career development event is designed to develop agricultural leadership by providing for member participation in agricultural public speaking activities and stimulating interest in leadership and citizenship. Members create and deliver a six- to eight-minute speech on a current agriculture topic or issue. Scoring is based on the written manuscript, delivery and response to questions.

**Sponsor**
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Miller sponsor the Prepared Public Speaking event as a special project of the North Carolina FFA Foundation.

**State Event Superintendent**
The superintendent for this event is Mr. Benjie Forrest, Eastern Region Agricultural Education Coordinator, Vernon James Center, 207 Research Road, Plymouth, NC 27962. Phone: 252.793.4428 ext.130 Fax: 252-793-5142 E-Mail: benjie_forrest@ncsu.edu

**Eligibility**
This event is open to all FFA chapters and FFA members in good standing. The event will be open only to students who are active FFA members and who are currently enrolled in agricultural education. Each participant manuscript must be the result of the student’s own efforts. Members winning a previous state event in this area or that have participated in a previous national event in this area are ineligible.

The use or possession of cellular phones, Personal Digital Assistants (PDA’s) or any other mobile electronic communication device is prohibited during any state-level career development event. Any violation of this rule by any team member will result in total team disqualification.

Any member found cheating in any state-level career development event will result in total team disqualification for that event.

Calculators used for this event must be only basic five function (add, subtract, multiply, divide, and square root only) calculators. Possession of scientific calculators and other programmable calculators or other non-basic calculator by any team member shall result in a team disqualification.

**Supplemental Information**
Prepared Public Speaking participants may also be involved in the Ritual and Parliamentary Procedure Career Development Event at the state level. (An exception may be made at the Federation and/or Regional level if agreed upon in advance by the FFA advisors on those levels.) Students may not enter Prepared Public Speaking and FFA Creed Speaking in the same year at the state level.

**Dress Code**
Participants are required to follow the North Carolina FFA Career Development Event Dress Code. A ten percent reduction in the total team score will be taken if a participant violates the dress code. Participants in this event must wear official dress as described in the FFA manual. For male members: black slacks, white collared shirt, official FFA tie, black dress shoes, black socks, and an official FFA jacket zipped to the top. For female members: black skirt, white collared blouse, official FFA blue scarf, black dress shoes with closed heel and toe, black nylon hosiery, and an official FFA jacket zipped up to the top. (Special Note: The skirt is to be at least knee length, hemmed evenly across the bottom, with a split no longer than two inches above the knee, excluding the kick pleat.)

**State Career Development Event Participation**
The appropriate numbers of participants based on event involvement from each region are eligible to compete in the state career development event. Individuals advancing to state event participation must be certified by the regional FFA advisor.
**Procedures for Administering the Event**

The event should be conducted on federation, regional, state and national levels.

Each participant’s manuscript must be the result of the student’s own efforts.

**Manuscript Guidelines**

- Participants must submit four copies of their speech for regional competition.
- Eight copies of their speech for state competition.
- Speeches should be typewritten copies on 8 ½” x 11” white paper.
- Double-spaced with 1” margins.
- 10 – 12 characters per inch.
- Including a cover page that gives the speech title, participant’s name, chapter, state and date.
- Follow APA style manual for developing references and bibliography.
- Do not bind, but place a staple in the upper left corner.

Manuscripts not meeting these guidelines will be penalized.

**Content Components**

Participants must complete an accurate and complete bibliography used in writing the speech (following National FFA Career Development Event Rules).

The participant may take advantage of all available training facilities and personnel in their local school and community in developing their speaking ability. Facts and working data may be obtained from any source.

Subject: Participants may choose any current subject for their speeches which is of an agricultural character (nature), and which may include agriscience and technology, agribusiness, agrimarketing, international agricultural relations, agricultural communications. Official judges of FFA Prepared Public Speaking shall disqualify a participant if he or she speaks on a non-agricultural subject.

**Presentation**

Participants shall draw for places on the program.

Visual aids used in presenting the speech will be limited to inanimate objects small enough in size to be easily held in the participant’s hand.

Time Limit: 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 he/she will be asked questions relating to his/her speech. Participants are to be penalized one point per second on each judges’ score sheet for being under six minutes or over eight minutes. No time warnings will be given.

Selecting a winner: Three competent and impartial judges will be selected to judge the event at all levels above the chapter level. At least one of the judges should have an agricultural background. Judges will formulate and ask questions pertaining directly to the participant’s speech (at all levels of competition). The full five minutes for questions should be used. Judges will score participants on the National Public Speaking score sheets. Each judge will individually score and rank all contestants. The rankings of each judge will be given to the participant director who will compile rankings and determine winner(s) based on low score values. That is, a speaker ranked number one by a judge receives one point, or two points for a second place ranking, etc.

**Procedure for Determining the State Event Winner When Scores are Tied**

In the event a tie score exists, the individual raw scores will be added and the high scorer will be the winner.
State Awards
The following awards will be presented annually at the state FFA convention provided sponsorship is available:

State Winner
$500 and first place plaque

Second Place
$100 and Second place plaque

Third Place
$50 Third place plaque

National Career Development Event Participation
State winning teams advancing to the national career development event will be automatically registered for the national event. It is the responsibility of the FFA Chapter Advisor to complete all necessary national certification and waiver forms and return them to the state FFA Coordinator by the assigned due date.

State winning CDE teams that choose not to participate at the national level should contact the state office by Sept. 1 prior to national convention. Teams that fail to inform the state office prior to Sept 1 will be ineligible to participate in that same CDE for the next year (chapters may appeal to the State FFA Board of Directors). Teams that do not compete at the National Convention will be required to pay back the $500 travel award.

Bibliography
Official FFA Manual
National FFA Career Development Events Handbook
North Carolina FFA Prepared Public Speaking Career Development Event

JUDGES SCORE SHEET

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Rank of Participant

NOTE: Judges should meet prior to the event to prepare and clarify the types of questions to be asked. *From the timekeeper’s record.

EXPLANATION OF SCORE SHEET POINTS

Part I – For Scoring Content and Composition
- Content of Manuscript includes:
- Importance and appropriateness of the subject
- Evidence of purpose
- Suitability of the material used
- Accuracy of the statements included
- Relationship of the content to agriculture
- Completeness and accuracy of bibliography
- Composition of Manuscript includes:
- Organization of the content
- Unity of thought
- Logical development
- Language used
- Sentence structure
- Accomplishment of purpose/conclusions
- Spelling and grammar
- Stage Presence includes:
- Personal Appearance
- Attitude
- Confidence
- Poise and body posture
- Personality
- Ease before audience
- Power of Expression includes:
- Fluency
- Emphasis
- Directness
- Sincerity
- Communicative ability
- Conveyance of thought and meaning
- Response to Questions includes:
- Ability to answer satisfactorily the questions on the speech that are asked by the judges indicating originality, familiarity with subject and ability to think quickly.

Part II – For Scoring Delivery of Production
- Voice includes:
- Quality
- Pitch
- Force
- Articulation
- Pronunciation
- General Effect includes:
- Extent to which the speech was interesting, understandable, convincing, pleasing and held attention.