



Prepared Public Speaking – Middle Grades LDE

Purpose

The Middle Grades Prepared Public Speaking career development event fosters confidence through a variety of public speaking topics as students prepare a speech focusing on an agricultural topic of their choice.

State Event Superintendent

The superintendent for this event is Mrs. Shelby Robertson, State FFA Coordinator, Department of Agricultural and Human Sciences, NC State University, Box 7654, Raleigh, NC 27695-7654
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Eligibility and General Guidelines

This event is open to all Middle Grades FFA chapters (6th – 8th grades) and Middle Grades 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's manuscript must be the result of the student's own efforts. Members winning a previous state event in this area are ineligible.

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

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

The North Carolina FFA Association, in keeping with the FFA mission and purposes, does not permit the use of tobacco products, e-cigarettes, vapes, or Juuls at any FFA facility or at any FFA activity.

Middle Grades Prepared Public Speaking participants may also be involved in the Middle Grades Ritual and Parliamentary Procedure Career Development Event at the state level.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, North Carolina FFA will honor requests for reasonable accommodations made by individuals with disabilities. Please direct accommodation requests through the CDE/LDE Accommodation Request [Form](#). If the accommodation can be made for all and/or doesn't provide an unfair advantage, then every effort will be made to provide the accommodation. Requests can be accommodated more effectively if notice is provided at least 10 days before the event.



Dress Code

Participants are required to follow the North Carolina FFA Career Development Event Dress Code. Official dress for an FFA member includes: an official FFA jacket zipped to the top, black slacks and black socks/nylons or black skirt and black nylons, white collared blouse or white collared shirt, official FFA tie or official FFA scarf, black dress shoes with closed heel and toe.

The North Carolina FFA Association strives to promote a positive image at all Official FFA Events. The dress code policy was established to address the issue of appropriate attire at all Official FFA Events. Members should adhere to this policy for all events. A ten percent reduction will be applied to all individual scores from a chapter if a participant from that chapter violates the dress code during that career event.

Procedures for Administering the Event

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

Participants must submit four copies of their speech for state competition. Speeches should be double-spaced typewritten copies on 8 ½" x 11" white paper with a cover page that gives the speech title, participant's name, chapter, state and date. The body of the manuscript will have 1" margins, and 10-12 characters per inch. 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.

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

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.

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.

Subject – Participants may choose any current subject for their speeches which is of an agricultural character (nature), and which is related to agriculture and/or biotechnology. Official judges of Middle Grades FFA Prepared Public Speaking shall disqualify a participant if he or she speaks on a subject other than agriculture or biotechnology.



Time Limit – Each speech shall be a minimum of four (4) minutes in length and a maximum of six (6) minutes. Each contestant will be allowed three (3) 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 four (4) minutes or over six (6) minutes. No time warnings will be given.

Method of Selecting a Winner – Three competent and impartial judges will be selected to judge the event. 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 three minutes for questions should be used. Judges will score participants on the North Carolina Middle Grades Public Speaking rubric. 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 case of a tie, there will be a tiebreaker question.

State Awards

The awards for the state event will be presented annually at the state FFA convention to include a team 1st, 2nd and 3rd place plaque and a travel monetary award.

Bibliography

Official FFA Manual

National FFA Career Development Events Handbook

North Carolina Middle Grades FFA Prepared Public Speaking Career Development Event

JUDGES SCORE RUBRIC

ITEMS TO BE SCORED	MAXIMUM POINTS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Content of Manuscript	200								
Manuscript composition	100								
Voice	100								
Stage Presence	100								
Power of Expression	100								
Response to Questions*	300								
General Effect	100								
TOTAL POINTS (Gross)	1000								
FFA Official Dress Violation	- 100								
TOTAL POINTS (Net)	1000								
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

Part II – For Scoring Delivery of Production

Voice includes:

- Quality Pitch Force
- Articulation Pronunciation

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.

General Effect includes:

- Extent to which the speech was interesting, understandable, convincing, pleasing and held attention.