



# **Prepared Public Speaking LDE**

## **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.

## **State Event Superintendent**

The superintendent for this event is designated by the State Agriculture Education Leader and will be identified at the State FFA Convention.

Questions and comments can be directed to Mr. Jason Chester, Central Region Coordinator, 444 Bristol Dr, Statesville, NC 28677. Phone: 704.213.1335, Email: [jdcheste@ncsu.edu](mailto:jdcheste@ncsu.edu)

## **Eligibility and Event Guidelines**

This event is open to all FFA chapters and FFA members in good standing. FFA Members may not participate in a Career Development Event that leads to a state level event after July 1, following their high school/early college graduation. The event will be open only to students who are active FFA members and who are currently enrolled in agricultural education. 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 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.

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.

## **Supplemental Information**

At the North Carolina FFA State Convention, participation in more than one FFA CDE event is permitted as long as events are not being held concurrently and no special provisions are required to facilitate participation with the exception that Parliamentary Procedure and Prepared Public Speaking and Parliamentary Procedure and Creed Speaking which are held concurrently will allow dual participation and special provisions for flighting.



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.

## **Middle School Participation**

Middle school students and teams may participate in Career Development Events or Leadership Development Events. The top middle grades team will be recognized at the state FFA convention. Middle school participants should designate during registration.

## **Dress Code**

Participants in this event should wear official dress as described in the FFA manual. 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.

## **Artificial Intelligence Usage**

All materials that are submitted should adhere to the [North Carolina FFA Artificial Intelligence Policy](#). Any attempt to gain an unfair advantage through the use of AI or other methods will not be tolerated. Non-compliance with this policy represents plagiarism and will automatically disqualify a member.

## **State Career Development Event Participation**

The appropriate number 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.



### Manuscript Requirements

- Participants must submit a manuscript of their speech for federation or regional competition as directed by the regional coordinator or federation advisor.
- For state level competition a pdf file of the manuscript must be submitted to the State FFA Coordinator prior to the State Convention registration deadline.
- Speeches are to be formatted on 8 ½" x 11" white paper with 1" margins and double line spacing
- A cover page is to be included that gives the speech title, participant's name, chapter, state and year.
- Font size must be 12 point using sans serif font (Arial, Calibri, etc.) or serif (Times New Roman, Cambria, etc.).
- The manuscript should follow the most current APA style for developing a reference list and in text citations.
- A complete and accurate reference list should be included in the manuscript.
- Manuscripts are not to be bound, but should have a staple in the upper left corner.

Manuscripts not meeting these guidelines will be penalized. Each participant's manuscript must be the result of the student's own efforts.

### Content Components

One should give credit to others where any direct quotes, phrases, or special dates are used in the manuscript, in order not to be guilty of plagiarism.

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:* No props are to be used.

Participants are expected to deliver their presentation in a way that is consistent with their manuscript. Major deviations between the oral presentation and the manuscript should be avoided.

*Time Limit:* Each speech shall be a minimum of six (6) minutes in length and a maximum of eight (8) minutes. Participants will be penalized one point per second on each judges' score sheet for being under six (6) minutes or over eight (8) minutes. Each participant will be allowed five (5) additional minutes in which he or she will be asked questions relating to his or her speech. No time warnings will be given.



Time for the presentation starts when the participant utters the first word and ends when the participant concludes the presentation.

Time for the question-and-answer section begins when the participant starts the first answer to the first question. When five minutes have elapsed, the timekeeper will call "TIME," at which time the participant should immediately cease speaking, and should a judge be asking a question when "TIME" is called, the judge will stop the question.

### **Method of Selecting Winner**

Three competent and impartial judges will be selected to judge the event at all levels above the chapter level. Judges for the preliminary and final rounds will not be the same unless no other option is available. 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 North Carolina FFA Public Speaking Scoring Rubric. Official placing for this event is based on ranks rather than scores. Each judge will independently score and rank the individual speakers based on the scores they gave him or her. The participant with the highest score total receives a rank of 1. Other participants are ranked in the same manner with each subsequent rank being for a lower score. After each judge has independently scored and ranked all participants, all judges will sum their ranks and the participant with the lowest cumulative total will be placed first. The second lowest cumulative total will be second place and so forth until all participants have been placed.

### **Manuscript Rubric - 200 points**

<i>Manuscript Standards</i>	<i>Maximum Points</i>
Topic relevance	30
Persuasive explanation of position	40
Alternative viewpoints recognized	20
Logical order and unity of thought	20
Spelling/grammar	35
Quality or resources	30
Formatted to 8 ½" x 11" white paper with 1" margins and double line spacing	5
Cover page has speech title, participant's name, chapter, state, and year	5
APA style for reference list and in text citations	15



### Presentation Rubric - 500 points

<i>Oral and Non-Verbal Communication Standards</i>	<i>Maximum Points</i>
Supporting evidence (use of examples)	75
Persuasive use of evidence	75
Pace	75
Command of audience	100
Eye contact	50
Mannerism and gestures	50
Poise	75

### Response to Questions Rubric – 300 points

<i>Response to Questions Standards</i>	<i>Maximum Points</i>
Organized response to questions	100
Knowledge of topic	200

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

In the event of a tie in ranks, the individual raw scores will be added and the high scorer will be the winner.

### State Awards

The awards for the state event will be presented annually at the state FFA convention to include a team 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place plaque and a travel monetary award. The highest-placing middle school team will be recognized only if they are not already among the overall top three teams. If a middle school team places in the top three overall, they will not receive additional middle school-specific recognition. At the NC FFA State Convention, if middle grades chapters compete in a leadership development event but do not advance to the final four, the top-ranking middle grades chapter from each flight will be recognized.

### 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 September 1 prior to national convention. Teams that fail to inform the state office prior to September 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 travel award.



## **Bibliography**

Official FFA Manual

National FFA Career Development Events Handbook

Natioal FFA Core Catalog:

Figures of Speech DVD - [http://shop.ffa.org/figures-of-speech-dvd\\_p37895.aspx](http://shop.ffa.org/figures-of-speech-dvd_p37895.aspx)

Great Speeches and Presentations - <http://shop.ffa.org/great-speeches-and-presentations-p37634.aspx>

CDE Q&A's DVD (2007-2010) - <http://shop.ffa.org/cde-qas-c1413.aspx>

FFA Learn—2005 & 2006 CDE Q&A's - <https://ffa.learn.com/learncenter.asp>

APA Style Guide (most current edition) - [www.apastyle.org](http://www.apastyle.org)

North Carolina FFA Association  
FFA Prepared Public Speaking Career Development Event  
Official Prepared Public Speaking CDE Manuscript Rubric – 200 points

Speaker Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicators	Very strong evidence skill is present	Moderate evidence skill is present	Strong evidence skill is not present	Points Earned	Weight	Total Score
Points possible per indicator	5-4	3-2	1-0			
Manuscript Content and Composition						
Topic relevance	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.		x 6	
Persuasive explanation of position on topic	Position clearly stated and ample evidence is provided.	Position is not obvious and evidence is not clearly provided.	Position is not stated and evidence is not provided.		x 8	
Alternative viewpoints recognized	Identifies and counters alternative viewpoints.	Only identifies alternative viewpoints.	Does not identify alternative viewpoints.		x 4	
Logical order and unity of thought	Clearly organized and concise with strong introduction, body, and conclusion layout.	Good organization with few statements out of place or lacking in clear construction.	Little to no organization is present; sometimes awkward and lacking construction..		x 4	
Spelling/grammar (sentence structure, verb agreement, etc.)	Spelling and grammar are extremely high quality with two or less errors in the document.	Spelling and grammar are adequate with three to five errors in the document.	Spelling and grammar are less than adequate with six or more errors in the document.		x 7	
Quality of resources	Resources are from reputable sources.	Resources are from questionable sources.	Resources are unreliable and invalid.		x 6	
Manuscript written according to guidelines	5 points		0 points			
Double-spaced formatted on 8½" x 11" white bond paper with 1" margins					x 1	
12 point serif or Sans Serif font					x 1	
Cover page with speech title, participant's name, chapter, state, and year					x 3	
APA style for references and citations					x 3	
Total Points for Manuscript Content and Composition						

North Carolina FFA Association  
FFA Prepared Public Speaking Career Development Event  
Prepared Public Speaking CDE Presentation and Questions Rubric – 800 points

Speaker Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicators	Very strong evidence skill is present	Moderate evidence skill is present	Strong evidence skill is not present	Points Earned	Weight	Total Score
Possible Points	5-4	3-2	1-0			
Oral and Non-Verbal Communication						
A. Supporting Evidence	Examples (stories, statistics, etc.) are vivid, precise, and clearly explained.	Examples are usually concrete, sometimes needs clarification.	Examples are sometimes confusing, leaving the listeners with questions.		x 15	
B. Persuasive use of evidence	Exemplary use of evidence to persuade listeners.	Sufficient use of evidence to persuade listeners.	Has difficulty using evidence to persuade listeners.		x 15	
C. Pace	Speaks very articulately at rate that engages audience.	Speaks articulately but occasionally speaks too fast or has long unnecessary hesitations.	Speaks too fast or too slow to engage audience.		x 15	
	Speaker uses appropriate emphasis and tone to captivate the audience.	Speaker presents speech as mere repeating of facts and speech comes across as a report.	Speaker lacks enthusiasm and power to engage the audience.		x 20	
E. Command of Audience						
F. 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).		x 10	
G. Mannerisms and gestures	No nervous habits are displayed. Hand motions are expressive and used to emphasize talking points.	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 10	
H. 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 15	
Response to Questions						
A. Response to questions	Is able to respond with organized thoughts and concise answers.	Answers effectively but has to stop and think and sometimes gets off focus.	Rambles or responds before thinking.		x 20	
B. Knowledge of topic	Answer shows thorough knowledge of the subject and supports answer with strong evidence.	Answer shows some knowledge of the subject but lacks strong evidence.	Answer shows little knowledge of the subject and lacks evidence.		x 40	
Total Points for Presentation and Questions Rubric						



## Prepared Public Speaking CDE Official Tally Sheet

[illegible]

Judge's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PREPARED PUBLIC SPEAKING CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT  
JUDGES WORKSHEET TO DETERMINE OFFICIAL PLACING**

Judges will score speakers on the North Carolina FFA Prepared Public Speaking Scoring Rubric. Official placing for this event is based on ranks rather than scores. Each judge will independently score and rank the individual speakers based on the scores they gave him or her. The speaker with the highest score total receives a rank of 1. Other speakers are ranked in the same manner with each subsequent rank being for a lower score. Each judge has scored and ranked all speakers. Afterward all judges will collaborate to determine overall rankings and placing for each speaker. Judges will sum their ranks and the speaker with the lowest cumulative total will be placed first, second lowest cumulative total will be second place and so forth until all speakers have been placed.

<b>Speakers in Order of Presentation</b>	<b>Judge A Rankings for each speaker</b>		<b>Judge B Rankings for each speaker</b>		<b>Judge C Rankings for each speaker</b>		<b>Cumulative Total of Ranks for all Judges for each speaker</b>	<b>Official Placing</b> Lowest cumulative total is 1 <sup>st</sup> place and ascend as the cumulative total moves up.
Speaker 1		+		+		=		
Speaker 2		+		+		=		
Speaker 3		+		+		=		
Speaker 4		+		+		=		
Speaker 5		+		+		=		
Speaker 6		+		+		=		
Speaker 7		+		+		=		
Speaker 8		+		+		=		
Speaker 9		+		+		=		
Speaker 10		+		+		=		
Speaker 11		+		+		=		
Speaker 12		+		+		=		
Speaker 13		+		+		=		
Speaker 14		+		+		=		
Speaker 15		+		+		=		
Speaker 16		+		+		=		
Speaker 17		+		+		=		
Speaker 18		+		+		=		
Speaker 19		+		+		=		
Speaker 20		+		+		=		

Judge's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_