



WASHINGTON  
FFA ASSOCIATION

# Creed Speaking

*Leadership Development Event*

## Handbook

2017-2021

## Purpose

The FFA Creed outlines the organization's beliefs regarding the industry of agriculture, FFA membership and the value of citizenship and patriotism. The Creed is recited by FFA members as part of the requirements to earn the Greenhand FFA Degree. The purpose of the Creed speaking leadership development event is to develop the public speaking abilities of 7th, 8th and 9th grade FFA members as well as develop their self-confidence and contribute to their advancement in the FFA degree program.

## Event Rules

**\*\*If there are any questions or issues, the State FFA Advisor will make the final decision.\*\***

- The FFA Creed Speaking Leadership Development Event will be limited to FFA members in grades 7, 8 or 9 and first-year 10<sup>th</sup> grade members.
- Members may one year only in Creed during their years in FFA.
- FFA members in 10<sup>th</sup> grade are not eligible to represent the state association at the national level, should they win the state LDE.
- Members are required to wear FFA Official Dress for this event or 20 points will be deducted from their overall score.
- Any participant in possession of any electronic device is subject to disqualification.

## Event Format

The event will include an oral presentation and answering critical thinking questions directly related to the Creed.

Each participant will be asked three questions per round with a five-minute total time limit. The questions used will change as the participant progresses to semifinal and final rounds of the event. The questions will be formulated annually by the Creed speaking LDE superintendent and will avoid two part questions.

Members will present the Creed from the current year's online *Official FFA Manual*.

The event will be a timed activity with four minutes for presentation. After four minutes, the participant will have one point deducted for every second over set time.

The event will be conducted in up to three rounds: preliminary, semifinals, and finals (four participants). The top two speakers from each preliminary section will advance to the semifinals. The top two speakers from the semifinal sections will advance to the final round. No ranking will be given except for the final four. Feedback for all participants will be distributed at the end of convention.

Event officials will randomly determine the speaking order. The room facilitator will introduce each participant by participant number and state association in order of the drawing. No props are to be used. Applause shall be withheld until all participants have spoken.

Each participant must recite the Creed from memory. Each participant shall begin the presentation by stating, "The FFA Creed by E.M. Tiffany." Each LDE participant shall end the presentation with the statement, "... that inspiring task. Thank you." Additional introductory or concluding remarks will result in accuracy deductions as indicated on the scorecard.

Participants will be held in isolation until their presentation. Participants will not be allowed to have contact with any outside persons.

Three to five competent and impartial persons will be selected to judge the event. Attempts will be made for at least one just to have an agricultural/FFA background. Each chapter participating must provide a judge for the preliminary round, and the semifinal round (*should their chapter speaker(s) advance*). Any advisor who has a student competing may not serve as a judge for that speaking event.

At the time of the event, the judges will be seated in a designated section of the room in which the event is held. They will score each participant on the delivery of the Creed and responses using the rubric provided.

Timekeepers will be designated to record the time used by each participant in delivering his/her speech. Content accuracy judges will record the number of recitation errors during delivery.

When participants have finished the presentation and answering of questions, each judge will total the score of each speaker. The judges' score sheets will then be submitted to event officials to determine final rankings of participants.

Participants will be ranked in numerical order on the basis of the final score to be determined by each judge without consultation. The judges' ranking of each participant then will be added, and the winner will be that participant whose total ranking is the lowest. Other placings will be determined in the same manner (low point score method of selection).

## Tiebreakers

*Ties will be broken based on the greatest number of low ranks.*

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 questions 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 will be presented to individuals based upon their rankings at the awards ceremony.*

## 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/LDE 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 online Official FFA Manual: [FFA.org](https://www.ffa.org)

# 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
<b>Oral Communication – 30 points</b>						
<b>Pace</b>	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	
<b>Tone</b>	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	
<b>Volume</b>	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	
<b>Non-verbal Communication – 30 points</b>						
<b>Eye contact</b>	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	
<b>Mannerisms and gestures</b>	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	

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
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	
<b>Question and Answer—40 points</b>						
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	
<b>Gross Total Points</b>						
<b>Time Deduction*</b>						
<b>Accuracy Deduction**</b>						
<b>NET TOTAL POINTS</b>						
<b>RANK</b>						

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

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

**WASHINGTON FFA: FFA Official Dress required. Members not in Official Dress will be deducted 20 pts.**

# Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Content Standards

Measurement assessed	Where measured in event	Academic content standards addressed
<b>CRP.04.01. Performance Indicator: Speak using strategies that ensure clarity, logic, purpose and professionalism in formal and informal settings.</b>		
CRP.04.01.01.a. Identify and categorize strategies for ensuring clarity, logic, purpose and professionalism in verbal and non-verbal communication (e.g., vocal tone, organization of thoughts, eye contact, preparation, etc.).	Entire Event	
CRP.04.01.02.b. Apply strategies for speaking with clarity, logic, purpose and professionalism in a variety of situations in formal and informal settings.	Entire Event	
<b>CRP.04.03. Performance Indicator: Model active listening strategies when interacting with others in formal and informal settings.</b>		
CRP.04.03.01.b. Apply active listening strategies (e.g., be attentive, observe non-verbal cues, ask clarifying questions, etc.).	Entire Event	
<b>CRP.04.03. Performance Indicator: Model active listening strategies when interacting with others in formal and informal settings.</b>		
CRP.04.03.01.b. Apply active listening strategies (e.g., be attentive, observe non-verbal cues, ask clarifying questions, etc.).	Entire Event	
CRP.04.03.02.c. Model active listening strategies in formal and informal settings.	Entire Event	