

# Prepared Speaking Leadership Development Event

The FFA Prepared Public Speaking Leadership Development Event is designed to develop agricultural leadership, communication skills and promote interest in leadership and citizenship by providing member participation in agricultural public speaking activities.

## I. GENERAL PLAN

The preliminary LDEs are of local and regional character and are held under the auspices of the FFA unit concerned. These preliminary events culminate in the state LDE finals. All regional LDEs should follow the rules of the State Public Speaking LDE.

## II. ELIGIBILITY

- A. The state LDE will be limited to participation by two members representing each region who shall have been determined winners in a regional LDE held prior to the state LDE, plus the third individual from the regions that had the first and second place individuals at the previous state finals. A chapter can have only one participant at the State Event.
- B. The competition will consist of a preliminary round of 18 contestants and final round of six contestants. Contestants will be divided into three groups for the preliminary round and the top two individuals from each round will advance to the final round.
- C. The state LDE will be open to active chapter members who meet eligibility requirements on page I of the General CDE/LDE Rules and Procedures. When selected, contestants must be active members of chartered FFA chapters in good standing with the State Association. A member representing a state association may participate in the national LDE once.
- D. Each contestant's manuscript will be the result of individual efforts. It is expected that each contestant will take advantage of all available training facilities in the local school in developing their speaking ability. Facts and working data may be secured from any source but must be appropriately documented. No visuals or displays will be used during the presentation.
- E. A contestant must wear Official Dress when competing in the LDE.

### Manuscript

Contestants who have won the right to compete in the state LDE by having been declared winner in the regional LDEs must submit a single PDF with manuscript and bibliography through their chapter advisor to the FFA LDE Coordinator no later than **April 1 11:50 p.m.**. If the regional event is after April 1, materials must be submitted within two days of the completion of the regional event. Failure to submit materials by the deadline will result in a zero score on Part I of the score sheet.

The following should be submitted as a single PDF file:

- a. One copy of the speech with student name and chapter on the first page.
- b. A complete and accurate bibliography used in writing the speech.

#### Manuscript requirements

- Formatted to fit 8 1/2 x 11-inch paper double spaced with a 1-inch margin
- Cover page including the speech title, participant's name, state and year
- Font size must be 12 point using a serif (Times New Roman, Cambria, etc.) or sans serif font (Ariel, Calibri, etc.)
- References and in-text citations are reasonably documented.
- Manuscripts not meeting these guidelines will be penalized.

To avoid plagiarism, all participants in the FFA Prepared Public Speaking Leadership Development Event should give credit to others where any direct quotes, phrases or special dates are used in the manuscript.

A reference list should be included at the end of the manuscript providing the information necessary for a reader to locate and retrieve any source cited in the body of the manuscript. Each source cited in the manuscript should appear in the reference list; likewise, each entry in the reference list should be cited in the manuscript text. The manuscript must follow the most current APA Style Guide for reference lists and in-text citations.

#### Subjects

Participants may choose any current subject of an agricultural nature for their speeches. This may include the areas of agribusiness, animal systems, plant systems, environmental services, food products and processing, natural resource systems, biotechnology systems and power, structural and technical systems. Official judges of the FFA Prepared Public Speaking Leadership Development Event shall disqualify a participant if he or she speaks on a non-agricultural subject.

#### Time Limit

Each speech will be a minimum of six minutes in length and a maximum of eight minutes. Participants will be penalized 20 points per minute, or major fraction thereof, on each judge's score sheet for being under six minutes or over eight minutes. (To avoid being penalized, a contestant must speak over five minutes and 30 seconds and under eight minutes and 30 seconds.)

Each participant will be allowed five additional minutes in which he or she will be asked questions relating to his or her speech and/or manuscript content. No time warnings will be given.

### III. METHOD OF SELECTING WINNER

- A. The appointed LDE chairperson(s) will be in charge of the state CDE.
- B. Contestants will be divided into three groups by the State FFA Coordinator for the preliminary round. They will be assigned to a group and time slot based on their regional qualifying rank. Event coordinators and FFA staff will randomly determine speaking order. The program chairperson shall then introduce each contestant by name only, in order of the competition. A contestant will be permitted to use notes while speaking, but deductions in scoring may be made for this practice if it detracts from the effectiveness of the presentation. Applause shall be withheld until all contestants have spoken.
- C. The top two contestants in each group from the first round will advance to the finals.
- D. Two timekeepers shall be designated who will record the time used by each contestant while speaking and in answering the judges' questions. Timekeepers will note time under or over and if any deductions should be made.
- E. At least three competent and impartial persons will be selected to judge the LDE. At least one judge should have an agricultural background.
- F. Prior to the LDE, the judges will be furnished with copies of the rules and scoring rubric. Judges will also receive copies of the contestant's submitted materials.
- G, At the time of the LDE, the judges will be seated in different sections of the room in which the event is held. They will score each contestant upon the delivery of the prepared speech, using the score sheet provided. Contestants may not request that no one be able to watch their presentation. The preliminary round will be closed to the public. The finals round may be open to the public.
- G. Each judge shall formulate and ask questions. Questions shall pertain directly to the speaker's subject. Questions containing two parts should be avoided. Judges will score each contestant on their ability to answer all questions asked by all judges.
- H. When all contestants have finished speaking, each judge will total their score on answers to questions and delivery for each contestant. The timekeeper's record will be used in computing the final score for each contestant.
- I. Contestants shall be ranked in numerical order on basis of final score to be determined by each judge without consultation with each other. The judges' ranking of each contestant then shall be added and the winner will be that contestant whose total of rankings is the lowest. Other placings shall be determined in the same manner (Low point score method of selection.)
- J. Tiebreaker: Ties will be broken based on the greatest number of low ranks. Participants' 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 participants' raw scores will be totaled. The participant with the greatest total of raw points will be declared the winner.

If a tie still exists, then the event superintendent will rank the participants' responses to questions. The participant with the greatest number of low ranks from the response to questions will be declared the winner.

#### **IV: References**

All candidates in the FFA Public Speaking LDE should give credit to others where any direct quotes, phrases, or special dates are used in the manuscript in order to not be guilty of plagiarism. Failure to do so will result in a zero score on Part I of the score sheet.

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 should be used.

- Past CDE materials, finals hall footage and other resources are available on FFA.org.
- APA Style Guide (most current edition), [www.apastyle.org](http://www.apastyle.org)
- Speak Well. (latest edition.) Liz O'Brien. McGraw-Hill Higher Education.
- Purdue's Online Writing Lab – APA Formatting Guide, <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

# Prepared Public Speaking LDE Manuscript Rubric

Indicators	Very strong evidence of skill	Moderate evidence of skill	Weak evidence of skill	Points possible	Points earned
Part I: 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.	30	
Persuasive explanation of position on topic	Position is 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.	40	
Alternative viewpoints recognized	Identifies and counters alternative viewpoints	Only identifies alternate viewpoints	Does not identify alternate viewpoints	20	
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	20	
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.	35	
Quality of resources	Resources are from reputable sources.	Resources are from questionable sources.	Resources are unreliable and invalid.	30	
Manuscript written according to guidelines					
References and in-text citations reasonably documented	Research is cited appropriately with APA style throughout the work. Citations appear wherever they are appropriate.	Research is cited appropriately in the work but there should be more research citations. Citations appear wherever they are appropriate.	Research is not cited often, and citations appear only at the end of sentences or paragraphs. More citations are needed to support the writing.	15	
Manuscript Formatting	Double-spaced & formatted to 8½ x 11- inch paper with 1-inch margins 12-point serif (Times new roman, Cambria, etc.) or sans serif font (Ariel, Calibri, etc.)			5	
Cover Page	Cover page with speech title, participant’s name and chapter			5	
Gross Total Points				200	
Comments:					

# Prepared Public Speaking LDE Presentation Rubric

Oral and Non-verbal Communication					
<b>Supporting evidence</b>	Examples (stories, statistics, etc.) are vivid, precise and clearly explained.	Examples are usually concrete but sometimes need clarification.	Examples are sometimes confusing, leaving the listeners with questions.	75	
<b>Persuasive use of evidence</b>	Exemplary use of evidence to persuade listeners.	Sufficient use of evidence to persuade listeners.	Has difficulty using evidence to persuade listeners	75	
<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.	75	
<b>Command of audience</b>	Speaker uses appropriate emphasis and tone to captivate audience.	Speaker presents speech as mere repeating of facts and speech comes across as a report.	Speaker lacks enthusiasm and power to engage audience.	100	
<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).	50	
<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.	50	
<b>Poise and Professionalism</b>	Portrays confidence and composure through appropriate body language (stance, posture, facial expressions). Dressed in all aspects of Official Dress.	Maintains control most of the time; rarely loses composure.  Missing minor aspects of Official Dress.	Lacks confidence and composure.  Missing major aspects of Official Dress.	75	
Question and Answer					
<b>Response to questions</b>	Responds with organized thoughts and concise answers.	Answers effectively but has to stop and think and sometimes gets off focus	Rambles or responds before thinking	100	
<b>Knowledge of topic</b>	Answers show a thorough knowledge of the subject and support answer with strong evidence.	Answers show some knowledge of the subject but lacks strong evidence.	Answers show little knowledge of subject and lacks evidence.	200	
<b>Gross Total Points</b>				800	
<b>Rank</b>					
<b>Comments:</b>					

# Prepared Public Speaking LDE Rubric Summary

Contestant \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

## Part I: Manuscript Scoring

Item scored	Points Possible	Points Earned
Manuscript Content and Composition	175	
Manuscript written according to guidelines	25	
Manuscript Total Score	200	

## Part II: Presentation Scoring

Item scored	Points Possible	Points Earned
Oral and Non-verbal Communication	500	
Question and Answer	300	
Presentation Total Score	800	

## Computing Total Results

Item scored	Points Possible	Points Earned
Manuscript Score	200	
Presentation Score	800	
Total Score	1000	
<i>*Time Deduction (20 points per minute)</i>	<i>20 points</i>	
Total Net Points	1000	
Rank of Contestant		