

FFA Creed Leadership Development Event

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 seventh, eighth and ninth grade FFA members as well as to develop their self-confidence and contribute to their advancement in the FFA degree program.

The Creed LDE is designed to develop leadership through providing for member participation in speaking and interpreting the creed. The competition will consist of a preliminary round of 24 contestants and final round of six contestants.

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 sub-state LDEs should follow the rules of the State Creed LDE.

II. ELIGIBILITY

A. The state LDE will be limited to participation by three members representing each region who shall have been determined winners in a regional LDE held prior to the state LDE. A chapter can have only one participant at the State Event.

B. The state LDE will be open to active chapter members who are in the 7th to 9th grade during the current school year and 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.

C. It is expected that each contestant will take advantage of all available training facilities in the local school in developing speaking ability; facts and working data may be secured from any source.

D. A contestant must wear Official Dress when competing in the LDE.

III. TIME LIMIT

The event will include an oral presentation and answering critical thinking questions directly related to the Creed. Each contestant must recite the creed from memory. Five minutes time will be allowed each contestant in which to defend the recitation on questions that shall be asked by the judges.

IV. 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. A timekeeper shall be designated who will record the time used by each contestant in answering the judges' questions.
- 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.
- 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 creed, using the score sheet and rubric 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.
- H. Each judge shall ask questions from the list. Questions shall pertain directly to the creed. Questions containing two or more parts should be avoided. Judges will score each contestant on their ability to answer all questions asked by all judges.
- I. When all contestants have finished speaking, each judge will total their score on answers to questions and delivery for each contestant.
- J. Contestants shall be ranked in numerical order on the 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 rank score method of selection.)
- K. 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 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. 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.

The FFA Creed Speaker Script

The FFA Creed by E.M. Tiffany:

I believe in the future of agriculture, with a faith born not of words but of deeds - achievements won by the present and past generations of agriculturists; in the promise of better days through better ways, even as the better things we now enjoy have come to us from the struggles of former years.

I believe that to live and work on a good farm, or to be engaged in other agricultural pursuits, is pleasant as well as challenging; for I know the joys and discomforts of agricultural life and hold an inborn fondness for those associations which, even in hours of discouragement, I cannot deny.

I believe in leadership from ourselves and respect from others. I believe in my own ability to work efficiently and think clearly, with such knowledge and skill as I can secure, and in the ability of progressive agriculturists to serve our own and the public interest in producing and marketing the product of our toil.

I believe in less dependence on begging and more power in bargaining; in the life abundant and enough honest wealth to help make it so-- for others as well as myself; in less need for charity and more of it when needed; in being happy myself and playing square with those whose happiness depends upon me.

I believe that American agriculture can and will hold true to the best traditions of our national life and that I can exert an influence in my home and community which will stand solid for my part in that inspiring task.

All Recitation Errors (missed words) must be circled

Total # of Recitation Errors: _____
(missed, added or switched words)

Question Time: _____
(maximum of 5 minutes)

Determination of Deductions

Number of errors _____ x 2 = _____

The creed was written by E. M Tiffany and adopted at the 3rd National Convention of the FFA. It was revised at the 38th Convention and the 63rd Convention.

Creed Speaking LDE Presentation Rubric

Indicators	Very strong evidence of skill	Moderate evidence of skill	Weak evidence of skill	Points possible	Points earned
Oral Communication					
Pace	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.	10	
Tone	Voice is upbeat, impassioned and under control	Voice is somewhat upbeat, impassioned and under control	Voice is not upbeat; lacks passion and control	10	
Volume	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.	10	
Non-verbal Communication					
Eye contact	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).	10	
Mannerisms and gestures	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.	10	
Poise and Professionalism	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.	10	
Question and Answer					
Response to questions	Responds with organized thoughts and concise answers.	Speaks effectively and sometimes gets off topic. Answers lacks organization.	Response fails to answer question.	10	
Support	Always provides details that support answers/basis of the question.	Usually provides details that are supportive of the answers/basis of the question.	Sometimes overlooks details that could be very beneficial to the answers/basis of the question.	15	
Knowledge of agriculture	Answer shows knowledge of agriculture.	Answer shows limited knowledge of agriculture.	Answer shows no knowledge of agriculture.	15	
Gross Total Points					
Accuracy Deduction (-2 points per word, determined by an accuracy judge)					
Net Total Points					
Rank					
Comments:					

CREED QUESTIONS

It is recommended that the judges meet prior to the contest to prepare and clarify the questions to be asked. Judges will put together a sequence of identical questions to ask all contestants. Five minutes will be allowed for questions.

Discussion questions will be selected from the following:

PARAGRAPH I

1. What reasons are there for believing in the future of agriculture?
2. What do you believe the future of agriculture holds for you?
3. What is meant by the statement, "With a faith born not of words but of deeds"?
4. What are some of the important "achievements won by the present and past generations of agriculturists"?
5. How can we have "better days through better ways"?
6. What are some of the "better things we now enjoy that have come up to us from the struggle of former years"?

PARAGRAPH II

1. What is meant by "engaged in other agricultural pursuits"?
2. What is challenging about living and working on a good farm?
3. What do you believe constitutes a good farm"?
4. What are some of the 'joys of agricultural life"?
5. What are some of the "discomforts of agricultural life"?
6. What is meant by the statement "and hold an inborn fondness for those associations which, even in hours of discouragement, I cannot deny"?

PARAGRAPH III

1. Why is leadership so important?
2. What can you do as a freshman in agriculture to develop leadership ability?
3. What can you do to merit "respect from others"?
4. What can you do to make your work more efficient?
5. What can you do to develop the ability to think clearly?
6. What is meant by "progressive agriculturists"?
7. How can progressive agriculturists serve themselves and the public interest in marketing the products of their toil?

PARAGRAPH IV

1. What is meant by the "power in bargaining"?
2. What is the difference between begging and bargaining?
3. What is meant by "the life abundant"?
4. What is meant by "honest wealth"?
5. What are some examples of wealth that are not honest?
6. What can you do to help others have an abundant life, and the honest wealth to help make it so?
7. Could one have an abundant life without wealth?
8. What is meant by "less need for charity and more of it when needed"?
9. Why is it important for each of us to be happy?
10. Why is it important to play square with those whose happiness depends upon us?
11. Whose happiness depends upon you?

PARAGRAPH V

1. What are some of the "best traditions in our national life to which rural American agriculture will hold true"?
2. What can you do, as a young person in agriculture, to exert an influence in your home and in your community which will stand solid for your part in that inspiring task?

GENERAL

1. Who wrote the FFA Creed?
2. When was it adopted officially by the FFA?
3. How would/could/should the principles of the FFA Creed influence your community and leadership actions?