State FFA Extemporaneous Speaking Skills Event

Offered only to students classified under Provision of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 1997 Public Law 105-17, with student eligibility form accompanying registration.

FORMAT

The Extemporaneous Speaking Skills Event will be held for individual participants. Participants should be in official FFA dress. The event shall be organized as follows:

1. The selection of topics shall be held 45 minutes before the event. The participants will draw two specific topic, selected at random from the pool of 8 topics below, relating to the industry of agriculture. After selecting the topic they desire to speak on, both topics will be returned for the next drawing.

2. Eight topics below have been prepared for the event and include two each from the following categories: a) agriscience and technology; b) agrimarketing and international agricultural relations; c) food and fiber systems; and d) urban agriculture.

3. Participants will be admitted to the preparation room at 15-minute intervals and given exactly 45 minutes for topic selection and preparation.

4. Reference material will be screened by the officials in charge of the event on the following basis:

    a. Shall be limited to five items.

    b. Must be printed material such as books or magazines and/or a compilation of collected materials. To be counted as one item, a notebook or folder of collected materials may contain no more than 100 pages, single side (cannot be notes or speeches prepared by the participant or notes prepared by another person for the purpose of use for this event). (Copies must reference the origination point).

5. Each speech shall be the result of the participant s own effort using approved reference material, which the participant may bring to the preparation room. No other assistance may be provided. Participants must use the uniform note cards provided. Any notes for speaking must be made during the 30-minute preparation period.

6. A list of all possible topics will be given to and reviewed by the judges prior to the beginning of the event.

POSSIBLE TOPICS:

- Use of science to increase crop yields
- Keeping new technologies from driving farmers out of business
- How to better market American agricultural products to other countries
- Advantages and disadvantages of importing agricultural produce
- How to make Forestry in Maine more successful despite lack of workers and cheaper Canadian products
- Crop combinations that would work well in Maine and convincing growers to adopt these
- Promising opportunities in urban agriculture
- Protecting land for use by urban agriculturalists

TIME LIMIT

Each speech shall be not less than four nor more than six minutes in length with five minutes additional time allowed for related questions, which shall be asked by the judges. The program chairman of the event shall introduce the participant by name and state, and the participant may introduce his or her speech by title only. Participants will be penalized one point per second on each judge's score sheet for being over six minutes or under four minutes. Time commences when the speaker begins talking. Speakers may use a watch to keep a record of their time. No time warnings will be given by event officials or observers.

RANKING

Participants shall 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 shall be added, and the winner will be that participant whose total of rankings is the lowest. Other places will be determined in the same manner (low point score method of selection). In case of a tie, that individual who has the highest grand total score shall have higher rating.

EXPLANATION OF SCORE SHEET POINTS

1. **Content Related to Topic** includes:
   Appropriateness of the total speech content to the topic selected.
   Extent to which the speaker addressed the topic selected
   Suitability of the material used
   Accuracy of the statements included
   Relationship of the content to agriculture

2. **Organization of Materials** includes:
   Organization of the content
   Unity of thought
   Logical development
   Language used
   Sentence structure
   Accomplishment of purpose/conclusions
   Material related to subtopic

3. **Power of Expression** includes:
   Fluency
   Emphasis
   Directness
   Sincerity
   Communicative ability
   Conveyance of thought and meaning

4. **Voice** includes:
   Quality
   Pitch
   Articulation
   Pronunciation
   Force

5. **Stage Presence** includes:
   Personal appearance
   Poise and body posture
   Attitude
   Confidence
   Personality
   Ease before audience

6. **General Effect** includes:
   Extent to which the speech was interesting, understandable, convincing, pleasing and held attention
   Evidence of purpose

7. **Response to Questions** includes:
   Ability to answer the questions on the speech that are asked by the judges indicting originality, familiarity with subject and ability to think quickly

Extemporaneous Speaking Skills

Judge: _____ Signature / Date: _____

MAX POINTS	ONE	TWO	THREE	FOUR	FIVE	SIX	SEVEN	EIGHT
CONTENT RELATED TOPIC 300								
• Appropriateness of the total speech content to the topic selected • Extent to which the speaker addressed the topic selected • Suitability of the material used • Accuracy of the statements • Relationship to the content of agriculture								
ORGANIZAT'N OF MATERIALS 100								
• Organization of contents • Unity of thought • Logical development • Language used • Sentence structure • Accomplishment of purpose-conclusion • Material related to sub-topic								
POWER OF EXPRESSION 100								
• Communicative ability including: fluency, emphasis, directness and sincerity • Conveyance of thought and meaning								
VOICE 100								
• Quality, pitch • Articulation • Pronunciation • Force								
STAGE PRESENCE 100								
• Personal appearance • Poise and body posture • Attitude, confidence and personality • Ease before an audience								
GENERAL EFFECT 100								
• Extent to which the speech was interesting, understandable, convincing, pleasing and held attention • Evidence of purpose								
RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS* 200								
• Ability to answer the questions on the speech, which are asked by the judges, indicating originality, familiarity with subject and ability to think quickly.								
Gross Total Points: 1000								
Less Time Deduction**:								
Net Total Points:								
Participant Ranking:								

* Judges should meet prior to start of first speech to prepare and clarify the types of questions to be asked.
** - 1 point per second over, determined by the timekeepers