

# **CREED SPEAKING CAREER DEVELOPMENT FORMAT**

## **I. EVENT RULES**

1. This event is open to all first year FFA members as well as to FFA members in the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> grade, regardless of number of years in FFA.
2. It is highly recommended participants be in official FFA dress in each event.
3. Three to six competent and impartial persons will be selected to judge the event. At least one judge should have an agricultural/FFA background. Each state with a speaker shall provide a judge for the national event if at all possible.

## **II. EVENT FORMAT**

1. The event will include both an oral presentation as well as answering questions directly related to the FFA Creed. Each contestant will be asked three questions with a five minute time limit.
2. Members will present the FFA Creed from the current year's Official FFA manual.
3. The event will be a timed activity with four minutes for presentation. After four minutes, the contestant will be deducted 1 point for every second over set time.
4. Event officials will randomly determine the speaking order. The program chairperson shall introduce each participant by contestant number and in order of the drawing. No props are to be used. Applause shall be withheld until all participants have spoken.
5. Each contestant must recite the FFA Creed from memory. Each contestant shall begin the presentation by stating "The FFA Creed by E. M. Tiffany." Each contestant shall end the presentation with the statement "...that inspiring task. Thank you."
6. Contestants will be held in isolation until their presentation. Contestant will not be allowed to have contact with any outside persons.
7. At the time of the event, the judges will be seated in different sections of the room in which the event is held. They will score each participant on the delivery of the Creed, using the score sheet provided.
8. A timekeeper shall be designated who will record the time used by each participant in delivering his/her speech.
9. When participants have finished speaking each judge will total the score of each speaker. The timekeepers' records will be used in computing the final score for each participant. The judges' score sheets will then be submitted to event officials to determine final ratings of participants.
10. 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 ranking is the lowest. Other placings will be determined in the same manner (low point score method of selection)

### **III. TIEBREAKERS**

Ties will be broken based on the greatest number of low ranks. Participant's low rank 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.

### **IV. AWARDS**

All top 3 speakers will receive medals. The top state winner enrolled in 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, or 9<sup>th</sup> grade will receive a check from the National FFA in the amount of \$100. The top placed first-year FFA member speaker, if different from the previous winner (i.e. not enrolled in 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> grade) will receive a check in the amount of \$100 from the Maine FFA. The top placed speaker who meets the national guidelines of being in grade 7, 8, or 9 may be given the opportunity to compete at national convention.

### **V. REFERENCES**

This list of references is not intended to be inclusive. Other sources may be utilized and teachers are encouraged to make use of the very best instructional materials available. The following list contains references that may prove helpful during event preparation.

Current year's Official FFA Manual

[http://ag.arizona.edu/desert roses/creed.htm](http://ag.arizona.edu/desert%20roses/creed.htm)\*web site holds current rules and score sheet

## The FFA Creed

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 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.

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

# Creed Speaking

Judge: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature / Date: \_\_\_\_\_

	POSSIBLE POINTS	ONE	TWO	THREE	FOUR	FIVE	SIX	SEVEN	EIGHT
<b>VOICE</b>									
•Quality	40								
•Pitch	40								
•Force	40								
•Articulation	40								
•Pronunciation	40								
<b>Voice Total:</b>	<b>200</b>								
<b>STAGE PRESENCE</b>									
•Personal appearance	50								
•Poise and Posture	40								
•Attitude	35								
•Confidence	35								
•Personality and ease before audience	40								
<b>State Presence Total:</b>	<b>200</b>								
<b>POWER OF EXPRESSION</b>									
• Fluency	30								
• Emphasis	35								
• Directness	35								
• Sincerity	35								
•Communicative ability	35								
•Conveyance of thought and meaning	30								
<b>Power of Expression Total:</b>	<b>200</b>								
<b>GENERAL EFFECT</b>									
Extent to which the speech was interesting, understandable, convincing, pleasing and held attention	100								
<b>General Effect Total:</b>	<b>100</b>								
<b>RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS*</b>									
Ability to answer satisfactorily the questions on asked by the judges, indicating familiarity with the subject.	300								
<b>Response Total:</b>	<b>300</b>								
<b>Gross Total Points: 1000</b>									
Less Time Deduction**:									
Less Accuracy Deduction***:									
<b>Net Total Points:</b>									
Participant Ranking:									

\* Judges will agree on three questions before first speaker is admitted.

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

\*\*\* -20 points per word, determined by the accuracy judges.

## Sample Creed Questions:

- What reasons are there for believing in the future of agriculture? Why do you believe in the future of agriculture?
- What is your favorite line or phrase in the FFA Creed? Why?
- How can living and working on a good farm or being engaged in other agricultural pursuits be pleasant, as well as, challenging?
- How can we in agriculture provide leadership from ourselves?
- In your experiences, what is pleasant and what is challenging about agricultural pursuits?
- Why is it important for those in agriculture to demonstrate leadership?
- How will you develop your own ability to work efficiently and think clearly?
- What achievements have been developed in your lifetime that will bring “better days through better ways” to the agriculture industry?
- As an FFA member, why is the creed important to you?
- What do you think is meant by, “with a faith born not of words, but of deeds”?
- Name some of the better things we now enjoy that have come to us from the struggles of former years.
- In what ways do you think progressive agriculturists are serving our own and the public interest in producing and marketing the product of our toil?
- What do you think is meant by, “I believe in less dependence on begging and more power in bargaining?”
- Discuss a time when you demonstrated playing square with others.
- What do you think are the best traditions of our national life?
- How do you plan to exert an influence in your home and community?
- What do you think is meant by the lines I believe...“in less need for charity and more of it when needed”?
- Why should we be concerned with achievements won by the past generations of agriculturists?
- Explain the phrase “in the promise of better days through better ways”.
- What are some of the struggles of former years?
- Give an example of how “the things we now enjoy have come to use from the struggles of former years”.
- What agricultural pursuits are you involved in or plan to be involved in?
- What are some challenges of agricultural life? What are some joys of agricultural life?
- As fewer FFA members have the opportunity to live and work on a good farm, how can our organization remain true to the industry of agriculture?
- The industry of agriculture is constantly changing and the FFA creed has been revised to reflect those changes. When we revisit the creed, why was the word farming changed to agriculture?
- What part of the FFA creed means the most to you and why?
- The FFA Creed speaks to the best traditions of our national life. What are some traditions the agriculture industry should maintain despite advancing technology?
  - If the creed were to be revised again next year, what specific areas would you recommend be changed and why?