

**State FFA Prepared Public Speaking**

**Leadership Development Event**

**PURPOSE**

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

**ELIGIBILITY**

This event is open to high school FFA members. A skills competition is available to students in middle school. Students who have placed first in the past are not eligible to compete. Official dress is strongly encouraged.

**SUBJECTS**

Manuscripts and presentations must be on a current subject of an agricultural nature which may include agribusiness, animal systems, plant systems, environmental services, food products and processing, natural resource systems, biotechnology systems and power, and structural and technical systems.

**FORMAT**

The State Prepared Public Speaking Career Development Event will be held for individual participants in official dress speaking for 6-8 minutes and answering up to 5 minutes questions by judge(s). It is highly recommended participants be in official FFA dress in each event.

**PREPARATION**

Each participant’s manuscript will be the result of their own efforts. It is expected that the participant will take advantage of all available training facilities at their local school in developing their speaking ability. Facts and working data may be secured from any source and must be appropriately documented using APA format.

Participants/Advisors will submit **four copies** of their manuscript, references in APA format, and a signed statement of authenticity with their registration packet by the deadline of state convention registration (typically early April).

**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.

• 12-point size, using Times New Roman, Cambria, Arial or Calibri font.

• References and in-text citations documented. A reference list at the end of the manuscript, which provides 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. Please use APA style which is required for National FFA.

• Manuscripts not meeting these guidelines will be penalized, per the Manuscript Content and Composition Rubric.

• A signed Statement of Authenticity.

**DELIVERY**

Each speech shall be a minimum of six minutes in length and a maximum of eight minutes. Each participant will be allowed five minutes additional time in which they will be asked questions relating to their speech. Participants will be penalized one point per second on each judge’s score sheet for being under six minutes or over eight minutes. No time warnings will be given.

**SCORING**

Manuscript **200**

Presentation **500**

Response to questions **300**

Total Points **1,000**

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 placings shall 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 sore shall have higher ratings. Manuscripts received after advance submission date will be scored down by 10%.

# RESOURCES

The following are some resources that may be useful. Other sources may be utilized, and participants are encouraged to use the best instructional materials available. Participants should use discretion when selecting website references by only using reputable, proven sites.

• 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. (most current 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/>

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