

Middle Tennessee FFA

**Creed Speaking
Handbook**

2017-2021

Purpose

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 7th, 8th and 9th grade FFA members as well as develop their self-confidence and contribute to their advancement in the FFA degree program.

Event Rules

The National FFA Creed Speaking Leadership Development Event will be limited to one participant per state. The participant must qualify in grades 7, 8 or 9. The participant must compete at the next national convention following their state qualifying round.

- **FFA Official Dress is required for this event.**
- Three to five competent and impartial persons will be selected to judge the event. At least one judge should have an agricultural/FFA background.
- Any participant in possession of any electronic device is subject to disqualification.

Event Format

The event will include an oral presentation and answering critical thinking questions directly related to the Creed.

Each participant will be asked three questions per round with a five minute total time limit. The questions used will change as the participant progresses to semifinal and final rounds of the event. The questions will be formulated annually by the Creed speaking leadership development superintendent and will avoid two part questions. Past questions will be released in the CDE Q & A found on *FFA.org*.

Members will present the Creed from the current year’s *Official FFA Manual*.

The event will be a timed activity with four minutes for presentation. After four minutes, the participant will have one point deducted for every second over set time.

The state event will be conducted in two rounds: preliminary and finals. The top two speakers from the preliminary section will advance to the finals.

Each participant must recite the Creed from memory. Each participant shall begin the presentation by stating, “The FFA Creed by E.M. Tiffany.” Each CDE participant shall end the presentation with the statement, “... that inspiring task. Thank you.” Additional introductory or concluding remarks will result in accuracy deductions as indicated on the scorecard.

At the time of the event, the judges will be seated in a designated section of the room in which the event is held. They will score each participant on the delivery of the Creed and responses using the rubric provided.

Timekeepers will be designated to record the time used by each participant in delivering his/her speech. Content accuracy judges will record the number of recitation errors during delivery.

When participants have finished the presentation and answering of questions, each judge will total the score of each speaker. The timekeepers’ and accuracy judges’ 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 rankings of participants.

Participants will 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 will 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).

Tiebreakers

Ties will be broken based on the greatest number of low ranks.

Participant’s 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 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.

References

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 will be used.

- Past CDE materials, finals hall footage and other resources are available by logging in to <https://www.ffa.org/participate/cdes/creed-speaking>
- National FFA Core Catalog: Developing Great Speeches Guide
- Current year's Official FFA Manual [FFA.org](https://www.ffa.org)

Creed Speaking LDE Presentation Rubric

100 points

Participant # _____

INDICATORS	Very strong evidence of skill is present 5–4 points	Moderate evidence of skill is present 3–2 points	Strong evidence of skill is not present 1–0 points	Points Earned	Weight	Total Points
Oral Communication – 30 points						
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.		X 2	
Tone	Voice is upbeat, impassioned and under control.	Voice is somewhat upbeat, impassioned and under control.	Voice is not upbeat; lacks passion and control.		X 2	
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.		X 2	
Non-verbal Communication – 30 points						
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).		X 2	
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.		X 2	

INDICATORS	Very strong evidence of skill is present 5–4 points	Moderate evidence of skill is present 3–2 points	Strong evidence of skill is not present 1–0 points	Points Earned	Weight	Total Points
Poise	Portrays confidence and composure through appropriate body language (stance, posture, facial expressions).	Maintains control most of the time; rarely loses composure.	Lacks confidence and composure.		X 2	
Question and Answer—40 points						
Response to questions	Is able to respond with organized thoughts and concise answers.	Is able to speak effectively and sometimes gets off topic. Answer lacks organization.	Response fails to answer question.		X 2	
Support	Always provides details which support answers/basis of the question.	Usually provides details which are supportive of the answers/basis of the question.	Sometimes overlooks details that could be very beneficial to the answers/basis of the question.		X 3	
Knowledge of agriculture	Answer shows knowledge of agriculture.	Answer shows limited knowledge of agriculture.	Answer shows no knowledge of agriculture.		X 3	
Gross Total Points						
Time Deduction*						
Accuracy Deduction**						
NET TOTAL POINTS						
RANK						

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

** - 2 points per word, determined from by the accuracy judges.