



# INDIANA FFA

## Career Development Events

# Persuasive Essay

## Purpose

The FFA members will demonstrate their knowledge and written communication skills through the development of an essay.

## Objectives

Students will be able to:

1. Creatively write manuscripts expressing their point of view on current agriculture issues.
2. Use grammar, spelling, and writing skills properly
3. Use current technology to research and type composition
4. Use APA format to create the essay and a basic work cited page

## General Guidelines

- FFA Official Dress is required for this event.
- While official dress is required, proper safety apparel is allowed.
- Each chapter is entitled to one entry in each district Leadership Development Event.
- Each district is entitled to one entry in each state Leadership Development Event.
- The first place entry at the district event will advance to the state event. In the event that the first place entry is unavailable for the state event, the second place entry will advance; the district may continue down the list until an available entry is found.
- All students must be active FFA members in good standing in order to compete. In order to be an active member in good standing, a student must:
  - Be enrolled in at least one agricultural education course during the school year
  - Attend meetings, strive for degrees of membership, and participate in other organized activities of the chapter
  - Pay all current state and national dues
  - Display conduct consistent with the ideals and purposes of the National FFA Organization.
- Participants using personal electronic communication devices, other than those approved by the event officials, during the course of the event are subject to disqualification.
- The use of live animals is strictly prohibited.
- The use of weapons is prohibited. The list includes, but is not limited to guns, knives, bullets, bows, and arrows.
- Individuals are permanently ineligible to compete in this event after winning the state competition.

- This Leadership Development Event is open to those FFA members in 7<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade.

## Preparation Suggestions

- Make extensive use of the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) which can be found at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>
- Research current agriculture issues. The research time provided at contest time will not be nearly enough to be able to successfully write on a topic.
- Understand what makes a “credible source”. Judges will be very interested in where specific facts and figures have come from and if they have real merit.

## Contest Guidelines

- This is a priority LDE with all participants needing to show up at announced start time.
- The Essay LDE will be held in a computer lab with supervisors to monitor computer use. All participating members will be writing on the same agriculture topic that will be posted after participants are in the lab. The topic will be in the form of a question. Participants may choose to support either side.
- Participants will have thirty minutes to do internet research on the topic and will be allowed to take HANDWRITTEN notes (paper will be provided). Any use of copy/paste into a word document will result in instant disqualification (only the internet is allowed during the first thirty minutes). These notes should include information to compose a Work Cited page (3 to 5 sources cited) to be prepared in APA format.
- At the end of the thirty-minute internet time, the internet will be closed, and Microsoft Word will be opened to type the essay (during this time anyone found opening the internet will be instantly disqualified). Participants will have one hour to compose Cover page that will include Essay Title, FFA member’s Name, Chapter Name, and Date, a 1.5-to-2-page Persuasive Essay, plus a Work Cited page on the topic. The handwritten notes from the research time can be used during this time.
- The essay will be typed in Times New Roman, 12 font size, and double spaced. Margins will be the standard 1” on sides and top and bottom. Spell check, and thesaurus will be allowed during the composition of the essay.
- At the end of the time, participants will print 3 copies of their cover page, essay and work cited page, staple each copy, and present them to the supervising judge. The final printed essay should include:
  - Cover Page (1 page)- Essay Title, Name, Chapter, Date
  - Essay (2 pages)
  - Work Cited (1 page)

- Handwritten notes (attached to top copy)

## **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 participant's raw scores will be totaled. The participant with the greatest total of raw points will be declared the winner.

**“Future Farmers of America was founded by a group of young farmers in 1928. Their mission was to prepare future generations for the challenges of feeding a growing population.”**

# INDIANA FFA

## Persuasive Essay Scorecard

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria	Points Possible	Points Earned
Introduction	10	
Thesis Statement	10	
Creativity	20	
Logical Development of Argument	25	
Conclusion	10	
Correct Grammar	10	
Work Cited Page	10	
Cover Page/Handwritten Notes	5	
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>100</b>	
Deductions		
1. Under 1.5 or over 2 pages=minus 20 points		
2. Failure to follow internet rules=disqualification		
<b>Total Adjusted Points</b>		

**Comments:**