



INDIANA FFA

Career Development Events

Creed Speaking

Freshman Division

Purpose

The FFA Creed outlines the organization's beliefs regarding the agricultural industry, FFA membership and the value of citizenship and patriotism. The purpose of the Discovery Degree Creed Speaking Leadership Development Event is to begin to develop the public speaking abilities of FFA members as well as develop their self-confidence and contribute to their advancement in the FFA degree program

Objectives

Students will be able to:

1. Recite and Discuss the FFA Creed.
2. Understand the Purpose of the Creed and FFA.
3. Know the History of the Creed and its Changes.
4. Gain confidence in speaking ability.

General Guidelines

1. FFA Official Dress is required for this event.
2. While official dress is required, proper safety apparel is allowed.
3. Each chapter is entitled to one entry in each district Leadership Development Event.
4. Each district is entitled to one entry in each state Leadership Development Event.
5. 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.
6. 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:
 - a. 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, and display conduct consistent with the ideals and purposes of the National FFA Organization
7. Participants using personal electronic communication devices, other than those approved by the event officials, during the course of the event are subject to disqualification.
8. The use of live animals is strictly prohibited.
9. The use of weapons is prohibited. The list includes, but is not limited to, guns, knives, bullets, bows, and arrows. Knives appropriate to the demonstration may be used. For example, grafting knives are acceptable, demonstration to sharpen a knife is inappropriate.

10. Individuals are permanently ineligible to compete in this event after winning the state competition.
11. This Leadership Development Event is open only to those FFA members in 7th-9th grade.

Event Format

- The event will include both an oral presentation as well as answering questions directly related to the creed. Each participant will be asked three questions with a five-minute time limit. The questions will be formulated annually by the State Association and will avoid two-part questions.
- Members will present the FFA 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 be deducted 1 point for every second over set time.
- Event officials will randomly determine the speaking order. No props are to be used.
- Each participant must recite the FFA Creed from memory. Each participant shall begin the presentation by stating "The FFA Creed by E.M. Tiffany." Each LDE participant shall end the presentation with the statement "... that inspiring task. Thank you."
- Official Dress is required for this event with or without an FFA Jacket.
- Three or more competent and impartial persons will be selected to judge the event. At least one judge should have an agricultural/FFA background.
- 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.
- Timekeepers shall be designated to record the time used by each participant in delivering his/her speech.
- Content accuracy judges will record the number of errors during delivery.
- When participants have finished speaking, 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 ratings of participants.
- 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 placing 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 totalled. The participant with the greatest total of raw points will be declared the winner.

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 *web site holds current rules and score sheet.



“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

Freshman Creed

Question Bank

1. How can FFA members use the creed to better their lives?
2. What reasons are there for believing in the future of agriculture?
3. What can you do as a freshman in agricultural education to develop leadership ability?
4. What is your favorite line or phrase in the FFA Creed? Why?
5. How can living and working on a good farm or being engaged in other agricultural pursuits be pleasant, as well as, challenging?
6. How can we in agriculture provide leadership from ourselves?
7. How will American agriculture affect the future of the country?
8. How will American agriculture affect the future of the planet?
9. How do the words of the creed apply in today's global economy?
10. In your experiences, what is pleasant and what is challenging about agricultural pursuits?
11. What agricultural pursuits do you see as the most exciting?
12. Why is it important for those in agriculture to demonstrate leadership?
13. What is the product of our toil?
14. How will you develop your own ability to work efficiently and think clearly?
15. What achievements have been developed in your lifetime that will bring "better days through better ways" to the agriculture industry?
16. As an FFA member, why is the creed important to you?
17. Why do you believe in the future of agriculture?
18. What do you think is meant by, "with a faith born not of words, but of deeds"?
19. Name some of the better things we now enjoy that have come to us from the struggles of former years.
20. 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?
21. What do you think is meant by, "I believe in less dependence on begging and more power in bargaining"?
22. How would you describe a "good farm"?
23. Discuss a time when you demonstrated playing square with others. How would you describe, "life abundant"?
24. How would you describe, "honest wealth"?
25. What do you think are the best traditions of our national life?
26. How do you plan to exert an influence in your home and community?

27. What do you think is meant by the lines I believe...“in less need for charity and more of it when needed”?
28. What do you see in the future of agriculture?
29. Why should we be concerned with the achievements won by the past generations of agriculturists?
30. Explain the phrase “in the promise of better days through better ways”.
31. What are some of the struggles of former years?
32. Give an example of how “the things we now enjoy have come to use from the struggles of former years”.
33. What agricultural pursuits are you involved in or plan to be involved in?
34. What are some challenges of agricultural life?
35. What are some joys of agricultural life?
36. What is an inborn fondness?
37. Where or how do you secure knowledge and skills?
38. 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?
39. 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?
40. What part of the FFA creed means the most to you and why?
41. The FFA Creed speaks to the best traditions of our national life. What are some traditions the agriculture industry should maintain despite advancing technology?
42. If the creed were to be revised again next year, what specific areas would you recommend be changed and why?

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FFA Creed Script

“The FFA Creed by E.M. Tiffany

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 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.

Thank you”

Please circle all missed words

(Missed, Added, or Switched Words)

Total Number of Errors:

Determination of Deductions

Number of Errors: _____ x 2
= _____

Total Deductions: _____

INDIANA FFA

Creed Scorecard

Name: _____

Chapter: _____

Indicators	Very strong evidence of skill 10-7 points	Moderate evidence of skill 6-4 points	Weak evidence of skill 3-0 points	Points Earned
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	
Tone	Voice is upbeat, impassioned and under control	Voice is somewhat upbeat, impassioned and under control	Voice is not upbeat; lacks passion and control	
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	
Voice Communication – 30 points				
Eye contact	Eye contact constantly used as an effective connection Constantly looks at the entire audience (90 to 100% of the time)	Eye contact is mostly effective and consistent Mostly looks around the audience (60 to 80% of the time)	Eye contact does not always allow connection with the speaker Occasionally looks at someone or some groups (less than 50% of the time)	
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	
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	
Question and Answer – 40 points				
	Very strong evidence of skill 10-7 points	Moderate evidence of skill 6-4 points	Weak evidence of skill 3-0 points	
Response questions	Responds with organized thoughts and concise answers	Speaks effectively and sometimes gets off topic Answers lack organization	Response fails to answer question	

	Very strong evidence of skill 15-11 points	Moderate evidence of skill 10-6 points	Weak evidence of skill 4-0 points	
Support	Always provides details that support answers/basis of the question	Usually provides details that are supportive of the answers/basis of the question	Sometimes overlooks details that could be very beneficial to the answers/basis of the question	
Knowledge of agriculture	Answer shows knowledge of agriculture	Answer shows limited knowledge of agriculture	Answer shows no knowledge of agriculture	
			Gross Total Points	
			Time Deduction*	
			Accuracy Deduction **	
			Net Total Points	

* -1 point per second over 4 minutes, determined by the timekeepers
 ** -2 points per word, determined by the accuracy judges

Judges Comments: