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# Creed Speaking

## 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 New Jersey FFA 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 complete rules, policies and procedures relevant to all New Jersey FFA Career and Leadership Development Events may be found in the CDE & LDE Event Participation Policy:

[https://nj.gov/agriculture/ag\\_ed/ffa/activity/CDE\\_LDE\\_Policy.pdf](https://nj.gov/agriculture/ag_ed/ffa/activity/CDE_LDE_Policy.pdf)

- The New Jersey FFA Creed Speaking Leadership Development Event will be limited to two participants per chapter. The participant must be in grades 7, 8 or 9 at the time of the competition.
- It is highly recommended that participants wear FFA Official Dress for this event.
- Any participant in possession of any electronic device at any point throughout the event 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 with a five-minute total time limit. The questions used will change as the participant progresses to the final round of the event. The questions will be formulated annually.

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.

Following their recitation, each participant will be asked three questions per round with a five-minute total time limit. The questions will change as the participant progresses to the semifinal and final rounds of the event. The questions will be formulated annually and will avoid two-part questions.

The state event will be conducted in two rounds: preliminary and finals. The top two speakers from each regional preliminary event will advance to finals held at the State FFA Convention.

Event officials will randomly determine the speaking order, unless of scheduling conflicts (i.e. State Officer Selection Process). The room facilitator will introduce each participant-by-participant name and chapter in order of the drawing. No props are to be used. Applause shall be withheld until all participants have spoken.

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.

Participants will be held in isolation until their presentation. Participants will not be allowed to have contact with any outside persons. Participants are not allowed to re-enter the event room to observe other participants.

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 to the questions using the rubric provided.

Timekeepers will be designated to record the time used by each participant in delivering their 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).

### **PRELIMINARY EVENT**

Three regional preliminary events will be held in March – Northern, Central, Southern. The top two participants in each region will move on to the final round. The final round will take place at the New Jersey State FFA Convention in May.

## **Scoring**

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 the participant whose total ranking is the lowest.

### **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 coordinator 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.

## **Awards**

Awards will be presented to individuals based upon their rankings at the 3<sup>rd</sup> general session of the New Jersey State FFA Convention. Awards are sponsored by the New Jersey FFA Foundation.

### Individual

1<sup>st</sup> – \$100.00, plaque sponsored by National FFA, certificate & pin

2<sup>nd</sup> – \$75.00 & pin

3<sup>rd</sup> – \$50.00 & pin

The 1<sup>st</sup> place individual will represent New Jersey at the Big E in September and the National FFA Convention in October.

## 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. The following list contains references that may prove helpful during event preparation.

- Past CDE materials, finals hall footage and other resources are available by logging in to <http://www.ffa.org/participate/cdes/creed-speaking>
- Current year's official FFA manual (ffa.org)

## Request for Reasonable Accommodations

The New Jersey FFA Association is committed to providing equal access to our events and activities for all people. Use this form to request a reasonable accommodation or assistance at least 3 weeks before any state-level events: <https://form.jotform.com/NJFFA/accommodations-request>. A new form will need to be submitted for each event in which a reasonable accommodation is being requested. This information will be kept confidential and will be used only to process the request. Our staff will review the request upon receipt and contact the requestor with additional information. The association cannot guarantee accommodations or assistance if a form is received less than 3 weeks before an event. Accommodations being requested that require the assistance of another person (nurse, interpreter, scribe, reader, etc.) is the responsibility of the school/requestor. It is also the school/requestor's responsibility to provide any approved equipment to aide in the accommodation process, if applicable.

## Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy and Guidelines

The standard operative procedures allow FFA members to use AI tools to assist them in their learning. Appropriate uses of AI may include generating ideas for any FFA-related assignment, project, contest and award application; checking facts of a phenomenon; or checking for and correcting grammatical errors in a paper written by a member. Specific guidelines for appropriate use, including examples, is provided in the policy. To ensure clarity, a statement outlining ethical AI utilization will be added to program handbooks. Non-compliance with this policy represents plagiarism and will automatically disqualify a member.

Please visit the State Activity Guide, [Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) Policy 1.007](#) to view the full guidelines and best practices.

## Professional Integrity

FFA members participating in New Jersey FFA programs and events understand and agree that all work must result from their own effort and ability, created, and completed alone (except for partner or chapter applications). When outside sources (direct quotes or phrases, specific dates, figures, or other materials) are used for a project, document, or application, the required reference citation must be completed according to the rules specified by the applicable handbook.

While participating in New Jersey FFA programs, FFA members are prohibited from:

- Plagiarizing
- Violating copyright
- Cheating
- Falsifying information
- Using another person's results or thoughts as their own, even with this person's permission. This includes work done by a family member or a mentor.
- Using information or data obtained from the internet without proper citation.

Any attempt to gain an unfair advantage will not be tolerated. Non-compliance represents plagiarism and will automatically disqualify a member.

# Creed Speaking LDE Presentation Rubric

100 points

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Member Number \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Indicators	Very strong evidence of skill 5–4 points	Moderate evidence of skill 3–2 points	Weak evidence of skill 1–0 points	Points Earned	Weight	Total Points
<b>Oral Communication - 30 points</b>						
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	
<b>Non-Verbal Communication - 30 points</b>						
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	
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	

Indicators	Very strong evidence of skill 5-4 points	Moderate evidence of skill 3-2 points	Weak evidence of skill 1-0 points	Points Earned	Weight	Total Points
<b>Question and Answer - 40 points</b>						
Response to questions	Responds with organized thoughts and concise answers	Speaks effectively and sometimes gets off topic Answers lacks organization	Response fails to answer question		X 2	
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		X 3	
Knowledge of agriculture	Answer shows knowledge of agriculture	Answer shows limited knowledge of agriculture	Answer shows no knowledge of agriculture		X 3	
<i>Gross Total Points</i>						
<i>Time Deduction*</i>						
<i>Accuracy Deduction**</i>						
<b>Net Total Points</b>						
<b>Rank</b>						

\* -1 point per second over 4 minutes, determined by the timekeeper

\*\* - 2 points per word, determined by the accuracy judge

# THE FFA CREED SPEAKER SCRIPT

**THE FOLLOWING IS EXACTLY WHAT MUST BE RECITED:**

“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”

**ALL RECITATION ERRORS (MISSED WORDS) MUST BE CIRCLED**

Total # of Recitation Errors

*(missed, added or switched words)*

Question Time:

**Determination of Deductions**

Number of errors \_\_\_ x 2 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Deduction:**



*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.*