

Revised 6/2014**Purpose and Standards**

The FFA Creed outlines the organization's beliefs regarding the agricultural industry, FFA membership and the value of citizenship and patriotism. The FFA Creed is recited by FFA members, as part of the requirements to earn the Greenhand Degree. The purpose of the Creed Speaking Career Development Event is to develop the public speaking abilities of 9th grade FFA members as well as develop their self confidence and contribute to their advancement in the FFA degree program.

Foundations Standards: 2.0 Communications, 3.0 Career Planning and Management, 4.0 Technology, 5.0 Problem Solving and Critical Thinking, 9.0 Leadership and Teamwork, 10.0 Technical Knowledge and Skill, and 11.0 Demonstration and Application.

Contestants

1. Each section will determine how many chapter members may participate at the sectional level. Each region will determine how many sectional participants may compete at the regional level. Participation at the state level is limited to the top 50% of those that participate in the regional contest (or major portion thereof), with a maximum of four (4) per region.
2. No person above the 9th grade level shall be eligible to participate in the Creed Recitation Contest.

Tie Breaker

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.

Rules

- I. The State Finals shall be conducted prior to, or during the State FFA Convention. Appropriate recognition shall be given to section, region, and state winners.
- II. Each participant must recite the FFA Creed from memory as found in the latest edition of the Official FFA Manual.
- III. No manuscript or written material shall be used by the participant.
- IV. Each participant shall begin the presentation by stating, "The FFA Creed by E.M. Tiffany." Each participant should 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.
- V. Each participant will be asked three questions per round with a five-minute time limit.
- VI. The same questions will be asked of each participant. Contest host shall segregate those yet to compete from all others. Questions containing two or more parts will be avoided.

- VII. The supervisor of the state creed contest will determine, write and provide the judges with questions to be asked of the participants in all rounds at the state, regional and sectional level. More than three questions may be submitted but only three are to be asked. The questions must pertain directly to the contents of the current creed.
- VIII. The judges shall select a designated person from within their group to act as a prompter to assist a student that falters (10 seconds) during a recitation.
- IX. 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 placings will be determined in the same manner (low point score method of selection).
- X. Awards will be given to first through sixth place contestants in the state finals.

Oral Communication – 200 points						
Indicators	Very strong evidence skill is present 5-4	Moderate evidence skill is present 3-2	Strong evidence skill is not present 1-0	Points Earned	Weight	Total Score
A. Speaking without hesitation	Speaks very articulately without hesitation. • Never has the need for unnecessary pauses or hesitation when speaking.	Speaks articulately, but sometimes hesitates. • Occasionally has the need for a long pause or moderate hesitation when speaking.	Speaks articulately, but frequently hesitates. • Frequently hesitates or has long, awkward pauses while speaking.		X 20	
B. Pace	Speaks at a moderate pace to be clear.	Speaks at a moderate pace most of the time, but shows some nervousness.	Pace is too fast/slow; nervous.		X 5	
C. 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 5	
D. Pronunciation	Pronunciation of words is very clear and intent is apparent.	Pronunciation of words is usually clear, sometimes mumbled.	Pronunciation of words is difficult to understand; unclear.		X 5	
E. 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 5	
Non-verbal Communication – 400 points						
A. Attention (eye contact)	Eye contact constantly used as an effective connection. • Constantly looks at the entire audience (90-100% of the time).	Eye contact is mostly effective and consistent. • Mostly looks around the audience (60-80% 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).		X 20	
B. Mannerisms	Does not have distracting mannerisms that affect effectiveness. • No nervous habits.	Sometimes has distracting mannerisms that pull from the presentation. • Sometimes exhibits nervous habits or ticks.	Has mannerisms that pull from the effectiveness of the presentation. • Displays some nervous habits – fidgets or anxious ticks.		X 20	
C. Gestures	Gestures are purposeful and effective. • Hand motions are expressive and used to emphasize talking points. • Great posture (confident) with positive body language.	Usually uses purposeful gestures. • Hands are sometimes used to express or emphasize. • Occasionally slumps; sometimes negative body language.	Occasionally gestures are used effectively. • Hands are not used to emphasize talking points; hand motions are sometimes distracting. • Lacks positive body language; slumps.		X 20	
D. Well poised	Is extremely well poised. • Poised and in control at all times.	Usually is well poised. • Poised and in control most of the time; rarely loses composure.	Isn't always well poised. • Sometimes seems to lose composure.		X 20	
Question and Answer—400 points						
A. Being detail-oriented	Is able to stay fully detail-oriented. • Always provides details which support answers/basis of the question.	Is mostly good at being detail-oriented. • Usually provides details which are supportive of the answers/basis of the question.	Has difficulty being detail-oriented. • Sometimes overlooks details that could be very beneficial to the answers/basis of the question.		X 30	
B. Speaking unrehearsed	Speaks unrehearsed with comfort and ease. • Is able to speak quickly with organized thoughts and concise answers.	Speaks unrehearsed mostly with comfort and ease, but sometimes seems nervous or unsure. • Is able to speak effectively, has to stop and think and sometimes gets off focus.	Shows nervousness or seems unprepared when speaking unrehearsed. • Seems to ramble or speaks before thinking.		X 30	
C. Examples used in response to questions	Examples are vivid, precise and clearly explained. • Examples are original, logical and relevant.	Examples are usually concrete, some-times needs clarification. • Examples are effective, but need more originality or thought.	Examples are abstract or not clearly defined. • Examples are sometimes confusing, leaving the listeners with questions.		X20	
Gross Total Points						
* -1 point per second over, determined by the timekeepers				Time Deduction*		
- 20 points per word, determined from by the accuracy judges.				Accuracy Deduction		
Net Total Points						
Rank						

