

EASTERN REGIONAL FFA PREPARED PUBLIC SPEAKING

EVENT RULES

1. Each participant's manuscript will be the result of his or her own efforts. It is expected that the participant will take advantage of all available training facilities at their local school in developing their speaking ability. Facts and working data may be secured from any source but must be appropriately documented.
2. Participants will report to the event superintendents for instructions at the time and place shown in the current year's Big E FFA Schedule of Events.
3. Participants must be in official FFA dress as defined in the current Official FFA Manual.

EVENT FORMAT

A. Materials are due by August 1. Please submit an electronic copy in PDF format to Milton S. Natusch, BIG E FFA Coordinator at mnspepper@earthlink.net.

1. **Seven** double-spaced typewritten copies of the speech on 8 1/2 " x 11" white bond paper with a cover page that gives the speech title, participant's name, state and date. The body of the manuscript will have 1" margins, and 10~12 characters per inch. Follow APA or Chicago Style manual for developing references and bibliography. Do not bind, but place a staple in upper left corner. Manuscripts not meeting these guidelines will be penalized.
2. A signed statement of originality on the certification form provided through your state FFA association.
3. A complete and accurate bibliography used in writing the speech. All participants in the Big E FFA Prepared Public Speaking Career Development Event should give credit to others where any direct quotes, phrases, or special dates are used in the manuscript in order not to be guilty of plagiarism. The Boards of National Officers and Directors of FFA at the October 1960 meeting in Kansas City, Missouri adopted the following;

"A bibliography MUST be included as part of the public speaker's manuscript and direct quotes from any source of information must be marked in "quotes" on the manuscript and be identified in the bibliography. Failure to do so will automatically disqualify a participant. This applies to all events above the local level." The Big E FFA Planning Committee supports this policy.

B. SUBJECTS

Participants may choose any current subject for their speeches, which is of an agricultural nature. This may include agriscience and technology, agribusiness, agrimarketing, international agricultural relations, and agricultural communications. If recommended by official judges of The Big E FFA Prepared Public Speaking Career Development Event, the event superintendent(s) may disqualify a participant if he or she speaks on a non-agricultural subject.

C. TIME LIMIT

Each speech shall be a minimum of six minutes in length and a maximum of eight minutes. Each participant will be allowed five minutes additional time in which he or she will be asked questions relating to his or her speech. Participants are to be penalized one point per second on each judge's score sheet for being under six minutes or over eight minutes. No time warnings will be given.

D. JUDGING

1. Event officials will randomly determine the speaking order. The program chairperson shall introduce each participant by name in order of the drawing. A participant will be permitted to use notes while speaking, but deductions in scoring may be made for this practice if it detracts from the effectiveness of the presentation. No props are to be used. Applause shall be withheld until all participants have spoken.
2. A timekeeper(s) shall be designated who will record the time used by each participant in delivering his or her speech, noting undertime or overtime, if any, for which deductions will be made. Timekeepers should be sitting together.
3. Three competent and impartial persons will be selected by the event superintendents to judge the event. At least one judge should have an agricultural background.
4. Prior to the event the content and composition of all manuscripts will be judged and scored by the judges using the manuscript score sheet. The manuscript with comments will be returned to the contestants at the Awards Banquet.

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5. 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 production, using the score sheet provided. They will also complete a judge's comment card, which will be presented to the participants at the Awards Banquet.
6. Each judge shall formulate and ask questions. Questions shall pertain directly to the speaker's subject. Questions containing two or more parts should be avoided. Judges will score each participant on the ability to answer all questions asked by all judges. The full five minutes for questions should be used.
7. When all participants have finished speaking, each judge will total the score on composition and delivery for each participant. The timekeeper(s) record will be used in computing the final score for each participant. The judges' score sheets will then be submitted to event superintendents to determine final rankings of participants.
8. Participants shall be ranked in numerical order based on 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 rank method of selection).

SCORING

Explanation of Score Sheet Points

Scoring Content and Composition

1. Content of the manuscript: (100 points possible) Importance and appropriateness of the subject Suitability of the material used
Accuracy of the Statements included
Evidence of purpose
Completeness and accuracy of bibliography
2. Composition of the manuscript: (100 points possible) Organization and development of content
Grammatical accuracy
Manuscript written according to event format rules

Scoring Delivery of Production

1. Oral Communication: (300 points possible)
Examples
Speaking without hesitation
Tone
Being detail oriented
Command of audience
Connect and articulate facts and issues
2. Non-verbal communication: (200 points possible)
Attention
Mannerism
Gestures
Well Poised
3. Response to Questions: (300 points possible)

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Speaking unrehearsed
Demonstrates Knowledge of topic

TIEBREAKER

Ties will be broken based on the greatest number of low ranks. Participant's low rankings will be counted and the participant with the greatest number of low rankings 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 lowest ranking from the response to questions 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.

Factual information pertaining to agriculture is available from:

1. United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250
2. State Colleges, Research Centers and/or Experiment Stations
3. The Superintendent of Documents, US Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402