



**[ NEW JERSEY FFA**  
**CAREER AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EVENTS**

# 6-8 Minute Prepared Public Speaking

2023

## Purpose

*The New Jersey FFA 6-8 Minute Prepared Public Speaking Leadership Development Event is designed to develop agricultural leadership, communication skills and promote interest in leadership and citizenship by providing member participation in agricultural public speaking activities.*

## Event Rules

- The New Jersey FFA 6-8 Minute Prepared Public Speaking Leadership Development Event will be limited to one participant from each chapter. This event is open to members in 7-12 grade.
- It is highly recommended that participants wear FFA Official Dress for this event.
- Each participant's manuscript will be the result of their 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.
- Participants will report to the event room at the time and place shown in the current year's schedule of events.

## Event Format

### MANUSCRIPT

Speeches (with cover page to include title of speech, participant's name, chapter, name of event and year) are to be uploaded to the chapter's State Convention Participant List (via JotForm). Speeches are due April 11<sup>th</sup>, or as outline in the calendar of events.

Manuscript requirements:

- Formatted to 8 1/2" x 11" double spaced with a 1" margin
- Cover page including the speech title, participant's name, chapter, name of event and year
- Font size must be 12 point using a serif (Times New Roman, Cambria, etc.) or sans serif font (Ariel, Calibri, etc.)
- References and in-text citations are reasonably documented.
- Manuscripts not meeting these guidelines will be penalized.

To avoid plagiarism, all participants in the New Jersey FFA 6-8 Minute Prepared Public Speaking Leadership Development Event should give credit to others where any direct quotes, phrases or special dates are used in the manuscript.

A reference list should be included at the end of the manuscript providing the information necessary for a reader to locate and retrieve any source cited in the body of the manuscript. Each source cited in the manuscript should appear in the reference list; likewise, each entry in the reference list should be cited in the manuscript text. It is recommended, but not required, that the manuscript follow the most current APA Style Guide for reference lists and in-text citations.

## **SUBJECTS**

Participants may choose any current subject of an agricultural nature for their speeches. This may include the areas of agribusiness, animal systems, plant systems, environmental services, food products and processing, natural resource systems and power, structural and technical systems. A participant will be disqualified if they speak on a non-agricultural subject.

## **TIME LIMIT**

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

## **PRELIMINARY EVENT**

A preliminary event will only be held if there are more than 8 contestants registered for the event and at the discretion of the state FFA advisor and state FFA specialist. If a preliminary event is needed, the top two participants in each room will move on to the final round. The final round will take place 30 minutes following the conclusion of the preliminary round or as announced in the official convention program.

## **Scoring**

Prior to the event, the content and composition of all manuscripts will be scored by qualified individual(s) using the manuscript rubric. Manuscript scores will be averaged and supplied to the presentation judges after they have scored the oral presentation.

Presentation judges will be furnished with copies of the participants' manuscripts, which they will use to formulate questions. Questions shall pertain directly to the speaker's subject. Questions containing two or more parts should be avoided.

Event officials will randomly determine the speaking order; unless there are scheduling conflicts with other components of convention (i.e. State Officer Selection Process). They will also ensure that prior to giving the speech, each speaker is properly introduced. 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.

A designated timekeeper will record the time used by each participant in delivering their speech, noting under time or over time, if any, for which deductions will be made.

At the time of the event, the judges will use the official rubric to score each participant on the delivery of the speech.

Judges will ask questions at the conclusion of the oral presentation of the speech. Judges will score each participant on the ability to answer all questions asked by judges. The full five minutes for questions should be used.

When all participants have finished speaking, each judge will total the score on composition, delivery and response to questions for each participant. The timekeeper(s) record will be used in computing the final score for each participant. Participants shall be ranked in numerical order on the basis of the final score to be determined by each judge. The judges' score sheets will then be submitted to event officials to determine final ratings of participants.

A participant will be permitted to use note cards while speaking, but deductions in scoring may be made for this practice if it detracts from the effectiveness of the presentation.

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 rank method of selection).

<b>Manuscript</b>	200
<b>Presentation</b>	500
<b>Response to Questions</b>	300
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	<b>1,000</b>

### **TIEBREAKERS**

Ties will be broken based on the greatest number of low ranks. Participants' 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, the event coordinator will rank the participants' manuscript score. The participant with the lowest rank from the manuscript score will be declared the winner. If a tie still exists, the participants' 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 the 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 on FFA.org.*

- National FFA Core Catalog: DEVELOPING GREAT SPEECHES GUIDE
- APA Style Guide (most current edition) – [www.apastyle.org](http://www.apastyle.org)
- Speak Well, latest edition, Liz O'Brien, McGraw-Hill Higher Education
- Purdue's Online Writing Lab – APA Formatting Guide:  
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

# Manuscript Content and Composition Rubric

## 200 points

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

INDICATORS	Very strong evidence of skill is present 5-4 points	Moderate evidence of skill is present 3-2 points	Strong evidence of skill is not present 1-0 points	Points Earned	Weight	Total Points
Topic Relevance	Topic addresses an issue facing the industry of agriculture	Topic addresses an issue that may show some relationship to the industry of agriculture	Topic addresses an issue that is unrelated to the industry of agriculture		X6	
Persuasive explanation of position on topic	Position clearly states and ample evidence is provided	Position is not obvious and evidence is not clearly provided	Position is not states and evidence is not provided		X8	
Alternative viewpoints recognized	Identifies and counters alternative viewpoints	Only identifies alternate viewpoints	Does not identify viewpoints		X4	
Logical order and unity of thought	Clearly organized and concise with strong introduction, body and conclusion layout	Good organization with few statements out of place or lacking in clear construction	Little to no organization is present; sometimes awkward and lacking construction		X4	
Spelling/Grammar	Spelling and grammar are extremely high quality with two or less errors in document	Spelling and grammar are adequate with 3-5 errors in document	Spelling and grammar are less than adequate with 6 or more errors		X7	
Quality of resources	Resources are from reputable sources	Resources are from questionable sources	Resources are unreliable and invalid.		X6	
<b>Manuscript written according to guidelines</b>	<b>5-4 points</b>	<b>3-2 points</b>	<b>1-0 points</b>			
References and in-text citations reasonably documented	Research is cited appropriately throughout the work. Citations appear wherever they are appropriate.	Research is cited appropriately in the work but there should be more research citations. Citations appear wherever they are appropriate.	Research is not cited often, and citations appear only at the end of sentences or paragraphs. More citations are needed to support the writing.		X3	
	<b>5 points</b>		<b>0 points</b>			
Double-spaced & formatted to 8½ x 11-inch paper with 1-inch margins 12-point serif (Times new roman, Cambria, etc.) or sans serif font (Ariel, Calibri, etc.)					X1	

Cover page with speech title, participant's name, state, and year					X1	
					<b>TOTAL POINTS (Out of 200)</b>	



# Presentation and Questions Rubric

800 points

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

INDICATORS	Very strong evidence of skill is present 5-4 points	Moderate evidence of skill is present 3-2 points	Strong evidence of skill is not present 1-0 points	Points Earned	Weight	Total Points
<b>Oral Communication and non-verbal communication</b>						
<b>Supporting Evidence</b>	Examples (stories, stats, etc..) are vivid, precise and clearly explained	Examples are usually concrete and sometimes need clarification	Examples are sometimes confusing leaving the listeners with questions		X15	
<b>Persuasive Use of Evidence</b>	Exemplary use of evidence to persuade listeners.	Sufficient use of evidence to persuade listeners.	Has difficulty using evidence to persuade listeners.		X15	
<b>Pace</b>	Speaks very articulately at rate that engages audience	Speaks articulately but occasionally speaks too fast or has unnecessary hesitations	Speaks too slow or too fast to engage audience		X15	
<b>Command of Audience</b>	Speaker uses appropriate emphasis and tone to captivate audience.	Speaker presents speech as mere repeating of facts and speech comes across as report.	Speaker lacks enthusiasm and power to engage audience.		X20	
<b>Eye Contact</b>	Eye contact constantly used as an effective connection. Constantly looks at the entire audience (90-100%)	Eye contact is mostly effect and consistent. Mostly looks around the audience (60-80%)	Eye contact does not always allow connection with the speaker. Occasionally looks at someone (less than 50%)		X10	
<b>Mannerisms and Gestures</b>	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		X10	
<b>Poise</b>	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		X15	
<b>Response to Questions</b>						
<b>Response to Questions</b>	Is able to respond with organized thoughts and concise answers.	Answers effectively but has to stop and think and sometimes gets off focus.	Rambles or responds before thinking.		X20	
<b>Knowledge of agriculture</b>	Answer shows thorough knowledge of the subject and supports answer with strong evidence.	Answer shows some knowledge of the subject but lacks strong evidence.	Answer shows little knowledge of subject and lacks evidence.		X40	
				<b>Subtotal</b>		
				<i>Time Deduction (penalized one point per second for being under six minutes or over eight minutes.)</i>		
				<b>TOTAL</b>		





NEW JERSEY FFA

CAREER AND LEADERSHIP  
DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

# Agricultural, Food and Natural Resources Content Standards

**CS.01.01. Performance Indicator: Examine issues and trends that impact AFNR systems on local, state, national and global levels.**

Measurement Assessed	Where measured in event	Academic Content Standards Addressed
CS.7.02.01.c. Evaluate a public policy within AFNR systems and defend or challenge it.	Manuscript	

**CS.02.02. Performance Indicator: Examine the components of the AFNR systems and their impact on the local, state, national and global society and economy.**

CS.02.02.01.c. Devise a strategy for explaining components of AFNR systems to audiences with limited knowledge.	Presentation	
CS.02.02.03.c. Evaluate how positive or negative changes in the local, state, national or global economy impacts AFNR systems.	Manuscript	

**CRP.04.01. Performance Indicator: Speak using strategies that ensure clarity, logic, purpose and professionalism in formal and informal settings.**

CRP.04.01.01.a. Identify and categorize strategies for ensuring clarity, logic, purpose and professionalism in verbal and non-verbal communication (e.g., vocal tone, organization of thoughts, eye contact, preparation, etc.).	Presentation	
CRP.04.01.02.b. Apply strategies for speaking with clarity, logic, purpose and professionalism in a variety of situations in formal and informal settings.	Presentation	

**CRP.04.02. Performance Indicator: Produce clear, reasoned and coherent written communication in formal and informal settings.**

CRP.04.02.02.c. Compose clear and coherent written documents (e.g., agendas, audio-visuals, drafts, forms, etc.) for formal and informal settings.	Manuscript	
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**CRP.04.03. Performance Indicator: Model active listening strategies when interacting with others in formal and informal settings.**

CRP.04.03.01.b. Apply active listening strategies (e.g., be attentive, observe non-verbal cues, ask clarifying questions, etc.).	Presentation	
CRP.04.03.02.c. Model active listening strategies in formal and informal settings.	Presentation	