



WISCONSIN
ASSOCIATION OF FFA



CREED SPEAKING LDE

PURPOSE

The FFA Creed outlines the organizations' 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 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

- A) Limited to FFA members in 7th, 8th and 9th grade, **on a one-time only basis**; sophomores, juniors, and seniors are not eligible. Once the member competes at the district level of competition either as a 7th or 8th grader, they cannot return and compete again the following years.
- B) Member must be in good standing with local, chapter, state association and national organization.
- C) Each chapter may enter **two** qualified participants in the district event in a given year. **Two** district winners will advance to the Sectional Leadership Development Events. These may be from the same school, if so, selected by the judges. One sectional winner per section will advance to the state event.
- D) The Official FFA Dress must be worn by all participants in district, sectional and state events. Refer to Official FFA manual for proper official dress. Deductions for deviations from Official FFA dress will be at the discretion of the judges who will consider special situations when presented prior to the participant's presentation.
- E) Participants in possession of electronic devices during competition are subject to disqualification.
- F) Recording of presentations is permitted by one person from each participant's chapter for that participant only.

EVENT FORMAT

- A) The latest edition of the FFA Creed published in the Official FFA Manual will be used.
- B) Event officials will randomly determine the speaking order. The room facilitator will introduce each participant. Applause shall be withheld until all participants have spoken.
- C) The event will include an oral presentation and answering critical thinking questions directly related to the FFA Creed. After the delivery of the FFA Creed, the participant will be asked three questions provided to the judges to determine the participant's depth of understanding of the FFA Creed. Questions will be restricted to content and meaning of the FFA Creed. No questions pertaining to agricultural policies or issues will be asked.
- D) Because each participant will be asked the same questions, the participants may not enter the event room until invited to perform in the event. Members who have not competed will be asked to stay in a holding room until after they have competed.
- E) Each participant must recite the Creed from memory. 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.
- F) Judges score and rank participants based on the scorecard. The decision of the judges is final. All ties must be broken, and all participants ranked.

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. Make sure to use discretion when selecting website references by only using reputable, proven sites. The following list contains references that may prove helpful during event preparation. The most current edition of resources will be used.

Past CDE materials, finals hall footage and other resources are available by logging in to <https://www.ffa.org/participate/cdes/creed-speaking>

National FFA Core Catalog: Developing Great Speeches Guide

Current year's Official FFA Manual [FFA.org](https://www.ffa.org)

AGRICULTURE, FOOD, AND NATURAL RESOURCES (AFNR) CONTENT STANDARDS

Measurement assessed	Where measured in event	Academic content standards addressed
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.).	Entire Event	
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.	Entire Event	
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.).	Entire Event	
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.).	Entire Event	
CRP.04.03.02.c. Model active listening strategies in formal and informal settings.	Entire Event	

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FFA CREED

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.

NOTES

*The Creed was written by E.M. Tiffany and adopted at the 3rd National FFA Convention of the FFA.
Revised at the 38th and 63rd Convention.*

Creed Speaking Leadership Development Event Presentation Rubric - 100 points

Contestant 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
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.		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	
Non-verbal Communication – 30 points						
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	
Question and Answer—40 points						
Response to questions	Is able to respond with organized thoughts and concise answers.	Is able to speak effectively and sometimes gets off topic. Answer lacks organization.	Response fails to answer question.		X 2	
Support	Always provides details which support answers/basis of the question.	Usually provides details which 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	

Gross Total Points

**** -1 point per word missed.**

Accuracy Deduction**

NET TOTAL POINTS

Judge’s Signature: _____ Date: _____

RANK

