

Public Speaking – Junior Division**Objective:**

To develop the ability of FFA members to competently express themselves through a prepared speech that is a result of their own research and understanding of a topic affecting the agriculture industry.

A. Rules and Regulations

1. The event is open to all FFA members in good standing who are regularly enrolled in an agricultural education course at the ninth or tenth grade levels during one or both semesters of the current school year and who have not placed first in a state Public Speaking – Junior Division Leadership Development Event (LDE) previously.
2. Each district will determine the number of individuals per school allowed to compete at the district level. Each district may send the top two individuals, with up to two additional teams identified as alternates, to the state level competition regardless of ribbon color awarded at the district level.
3. In addition to the Public Speaking – Junior Division LDE, a Public Speaking – Junior Division participant may compete in only one of the following events in a given year: Conduct of Chapter Meetings (applicable to ninth grade participants), Senior Parliamentary Procedure, or Agricultural Demonstration. They are not eligible to compete in any other individual (not team-based) Leadership Development Event in the same year in which they participate in Public Speaking – Junior Division.
4. Each speech shall be a maximum of six minutes and a minimum of four minutes in length. A time indicator shall be provided at four minutes. One point will be deducted for each second that the student speaks over time or under time. A maximum of five minutes of additional time will be allowed to each participant to answer questions asked by the evaluators.
5. A bibliography in **APA style** must be included as part of the speaker's manuscript and direct quotes from any other source of information must be in quotes on the manuscript and identified with the bibliography. **Charts and other visual aids are prohibited.**
6. The participant's use of a manuscript while speaking is prohibited at the district and state events; index cards are acceptable.
7. A state-qualifying participant will submit an electronic typewritten copy of the complete manuscript, including the cover page and bibliography, for the state event. District event coordinators shall determine and communicate the number of copies required for the district level of competition. The cover page shall be included at the front of the speech manuscript, and it must include the participant's name, chapter, "Public Speaking – Junior Division Leadership Development Event", and the title of the speech. The copies must be brought to the district event as instructed by the district event coordinator. For state competition, manuscript copies must be submitted to the Nebraska FFA state office by the date designated on the Nebraska FFA Association website.
8. There is no assigned topic. Topics must be related to the agriculture industry and participants shall work to inform the audience about the topic, their position on the topic, and differing viewpoints on the topic.

B. Suggested Guide for Conducting FFA Public Speaking – Junior Division Leadership Development Event*Prior to the Event*

1. The order of appearance to be used shall be determined in advance of the event.
2. Provide the following to each evaluator:
 - a. Public Speaking – Junior Division Rules (this document)
 - b. Scoring Rubric – one per participant

- c. Official Score Card/Results Sheet
- d. Order of Appearance Roster
- e. Manuscripts of Speeches

Start Event

1. Each participant shall be introduced to the evaluators by the individual coordinating the event. Introductions will include the participant's name and chapter.
Example: The following speaker is Alex Degree from the Blue and Gold FFA Chapter.
2. No one shall enter or leave the speaking room while the speaker is presenting.
3. After the participant is finished, the timer will record the time and forward to the evaluators.
4. Each participant is to be allowed a maximum of five minutes of questioning by the evaluators following the speech. These questions are to be based on the speech content.

After Event

1. Each evaluator shall total each participant's score and arrive at the placing. Discussion between evaluators is allowed and encouraged. Audience members and participants **shall not** be present during evaluator discussion.
2. Ribbons may be awarded according to the guidelines on the results sheets. The top four participants shall be ranked, regardless of their ribbon assignment, and up to two individuals regardless of their ribbon rating at the district level may advance to the state round of competition. Advancing speakers are to be of high quality.
3. A critique sheet shall be completed for each participant.
4. Two copies of the results should be completed on the form provided to the judges. List the name and chapter of each participant.
5. District FFA board representatives must verify membership of all state-qualifying participants within one week of district event.

Event Attire

1. Each participant shall wear the official FFA dress as defined in the FFA Manual: A white collared shirt or blouse, official FFA tie or scarf, black trousers or skirt, black shoes, and FFA jacket.
2. Points may be deducted for variance from official dress.

E. Official Score Card

Topic Relevance	30
Persuasive Explanation of Position	40
Alternative Viewpoints Recognized	20
Logical Order and Unity of Thought	20
Spelling/Grammar	35
Quality of Resources	30
Manuscript Written According to Guidelines	25
Oral and Non-verbal Communication	500
Response to Questions	300

Total.....1000

Time Penalty: one point is deducted for each second under time or over time.

D. Awards Recognition

1. District Awards: Participants meriting awards shall be rated as purple, blue, red, or white and the top four participants shall be ranked by number (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th). Each district may send the top two contestants, with up to two additional contestants identified as alternates, to the state round of competition.

2. State Awards: Participants in the state event will be designated as gold, silver, or bronze medal recipients.

PUBLIC SPEAKING - JUNIOR DIVISION EVENT CRITIQUE SHEET

Participant: _____

FFA Chapter: _____

INDICATOR	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.		X 6	
Comments:						
Persuasive explanation of position on topic	Position clearly stated and ample evidence is provided.	Position is not obvious and evidence is not clearly provided.	Position is not stated and evidence is not provided.		X 8	
Comments:						
Alternative viewpoints recognized	Identifies and counters alternative viewpoints.	Only identifies alternate viewpoints.	Does not identify alternate viewpoints.		X 4	
Comments:						
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.		X 4	
Comments:						
Spelling/grammar (sentence structure, verb agreement, etc.).	Spelling and grammar are extremely high quality with two or less errors in the document	Spelling and grammar are adequate with three to five errors in the document.	Spelling and grammar are less than adequate with six or more errors in the document.		X 7	
Comments:						
Quality of resources	Resources are from reputable sources.	Resources are from questionable sources.	Resources are unreliable and invalid.		X 6	
Comments:						
Manuscript written according to guidelines <small>*Judges are advised not to review manuscripts during presentations.</small>	5 points		0 points			
Double-spaced formatted to 8 1/2" x					X 1	

11" with 1" margins 12 point serif (Times new roman, Cambria, etc.) or sans serif font (Ariel, Calibri, etc.)						
Cover page with speech title, participant's name, chapter and event					X1	
APA style for references and citations					X3	
Comments:						
Sub-total Points						

INDICATOR	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 and non-verbal communication						
Supporting evidence	Examples (stories, statistics, etc.) are vivid, precise and clearly explained.	Examples are usually concrete and sometimes need clarification.	Examples are sometimes confusing leaving the listeners with questions.		X 15	
Comments:						
Persuasive use of evidence	Exemplary use of evidence to persuade listeners.	Sufficient use of evidence to persuade listeners.	Has difficulty using evidence to persuade listeners.		X 15	
Comments:						
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 15	
Comments:						
Command of audience	Speaker uses appropriate emphasis and tone to captivate audience.	Speaker presents speech as mere repeating of facts and speech comes across as a report.	Speaker lacks enthusiasm and power to engage audience		X 20	
Comments:						
Eye contact	Constantly looks at the entire audience (90 to 100 percent of the time).	Mostly looks around the audience (60 to 80 percent of the time).	Occasionally looks at someone or some groups (less than 50 percent of the time).		X 10	
Comments:						

Mannerisms and gestures	No nervous habits are displayed. Hand motions are expressive and used to emphasize talking points.	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 10	
Comments:						
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 15	
Comments:						
Response to questions						
Response to questions	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	
Knowledge of topic	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	
Comments:						
					Total Points	
-1 point per second under 4 minutes or over 6 minutes by the timekeeper						
					Total Points	

GENERAL COMMENTS:

PUBLIC SPEAKING - JUNIOR DIVISION EVENT SCORE SHEET

Participant: _____

FFA Chapter: _____

Content of Speech – 200 possible points				
INDICATOR	Very strong evidence of skill is present	Moderate evidence of skill is present	Strong evidence of skill is not present	Total Points
Topic relevance <i>(30 points maximum)</i>				
Persuasive explanation of position on topic <i>(40 points maximum)</i>				
Alternative viewpoints recognized <i>(20 points maximum)</i>				
Logical order and unity of thought <i>(20 points maximum)</i>				
Spelling/grammar (sentence structure, verb agreement, etc.) <i>(35 points maximum)</i>				
Quality of resources <i>(30 points maximum)</i>				
Double-spaced formatted to 8½" x 11" with 1" margins, 12 point (Times new roman, Cambria, Ariel, Calibri, etc.) <i>(5 points maximum)</i>				
Cover page with speech title, participant's name, chapter and event <i>(5 points maximum)</i>				
APA style for references and citations <i>(15 points maximum)</i>				
Oral communication and non-verbal communication – 500 possible points				
Supporting evidence <i>(75 points maximum)</i>				
Persuasive use of evidence <i>(75 points maximum)</i>				
Pace <i>(75 points maximum)</i>				
Command of audience <i>(100 points maximum)</i>				
Eye contact <i>(50 points maximum)</i>				
Mannerisms and gestures <i>(50 points maximum)</i>				
Poise <i>(75 points maximum)</i>				
Response to questions – 300 possible points				
Response to questions <i>(100 points maximum)</i>				
Knowledge of topic <i>(200 points maximum)</i>				
Sub-total Points				
-1 point per second under 4 minutes or over 6 minutes by the timekeeper				
Total Points				

GENERAL COMMENTS: