

6th, 7th & 8th Grade Extemporaneous Speaking



New York FFA Association

Purpose:

The Extemporaneous Speaking Contest is designed to develop the ability of all FFA members to express himself or herself on a given subject without having prepared or rehearsed its content in advance, therefore causing FFA members to formulate their remarks for presentation in a very limited amount of time. The preliminary contests are for local, sub-district and district level participation, and they are held under the auspices of the FFA unit concerned. These preliminary events culminate at the District Level.

Eligibility:

1. The state contest will be open only to 6th, 7th and 8th grade students who were regularly enrolled in agricultural education during the current calendar year. When selected, contestants must be active members of chartered FFA chapters in good standing with the State Association.
2. It is highly recommended that participants be in official FFA dress.

Subjects:

1. The selection of topics shall be held 30 minutes before the contest. The contestants will draw three specific topics relating to the industry of agriculture. After selecting the topic they desire to speak on, all three topics will be returned to the original group of topic areas prior to the drawing.
2. Topics shall be prepared by the Division Superintendent of the Contest.
3. Contestants will draw to determine the order of speaking. Contestants will be admitted to the preparation room at 15-minute intervals and given exactly 30 minutes for topic selection and preparation.
4. Must be printed material such as books or magazines (can not be notes or speeches prepared by the contestant or notes prepared by another person for the purpose of use for this contest).
5. Shall be limited to 5 items. To be counted as one item, a notebook or folder collected materials may contain NO more than 100 pages.
6. Each speech shall be the result of the contestant's own effort using approved reference material, which the contestant may bring to the preparation room. No other assistance may be provided. Uniform note cards for speaking must be made during the 30-minute preparation period.
7. A list of all possible topics will be given to and reviewed by the judges prior to the beginning of the contest.

Time Limits:

Each speech shall be not less than 3-minutes nor more than 6-minutes, with 5-minutes additional time allowed for related questions which shall be asked by the judges. The Superintendent of the Contest shall introduce the contestant by name and school, and the contestant may introduce his or her speech by title only. Contestants are to be penalized 1 point per second of each judge's score sheet for being over 6-minutes or under 3-minutes. Time commences when the speaker begins talking. Speakers may use a watch to keep a record of their time.

Method of Selecting Winner:

1. Contestants shall draw for places on the program. The Program Chairman shall then introduce each contestant by name and in order of the drawing. A contestant 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. Applause shall be withheld until all contestants have spoken.
2. Two timekeepers shall be designated who will record the time by each contestant in delivering his or her speech, noting under time or overtime, if any, for which deductions should be made. Timekeepers should be sitting together.
3. Three competent and impartial persons will be selected to judge the contest. At least one judge should have an agricultural background.
4. At the time of the contest, the judges will be seated in different sections of the room in which the contest is held. They will score each contestant upon the delivery of the production, using the score sheet provided.
5. 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 contestant on the ability to answer all questions asked by all judges. The full five minutes should be used.
6. When all contestants have finished speaking, each judge will total the score on each contestant. The timekeeper's record will be used in computing the final score for each contestant.
7. Contestants 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 contestant then shall be added and the winner will be that contestant whose total of rankings is the lowest. Other contestants placing shall be determined in the same manner (Low point score method of selection). In case of a tie, that individual who has the highest grand total score shall have prior rating.

Explanation of Score Sheet Points

1. Content related to topic includes:
 - Appropriateness of the total speech content to the topic selected
 - Extent to which the speaker addressed the topic selected
2. Knowledge of the subject includes:
 - Importance and appropriateness of the subject
 - Suitability of the material used
 - Accuracy of the statements included
3. Organization of material includes:
 - Organization of the content
 - Unity of thought
 - Logical development
 - Language used
 - Sentence structure
 - Accomplishment of purpose conclusion
 - Material related to sub-topic
4. Voice includes:
 - Quality
 - Pitch
 - Articulation
 - Pronunciation
 - Force
5. Stage Presence includes:
 - Personal appearance
 - Poise and body posture
 - Attitude
 - Confidence
 - Personality
 - Ease before audience
6. Power of Expression includes:
 - Fluency
 - Emphasis
 - Directness
 - Sincerity
 - Communicative ability
 - Conveyance of thought and meaning
7. General Effect includes:
 - Extent to which the speech was interesting, understandable, convincing, pleasing and held attention.
 - Evidence of purpose
8. Response to questions includes:
 - The ability to answer questions about the speech. Which are asked by the judges' that indication originality, familiarity with subject and ability to think quickly.
 - *NOTE: Judges should meet prior to the contest to prepare and clarify the types of questions to be asked.