

# 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Prepared Public Speaking



New York FFA Association

## **Purpose:**

The Prepared Public Speaking Contest is designed to develop agricultural leadership by providing for member participation in agricultural public speaking activities and stimulating interest in leadership and citizenship. The preliminary contests are for local, sub-district, district, sub-state and state level participation, and they are held under the auspices of the FFA unit concerned. These preliminary events culminate at the State Contest held at the time of the State FFA Annual Meeting.

## **Eligibility:**

1. The State Contest will be open only to 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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. Each contestant's manuscript will be the result of the student's own efforts. It is expected that the contestants will take advantage of all available training facilities in their local school in developing their speaking ability. Facts and working data may be secured from any source.
3. Four double-spaced typewritten copies of the speech on 8 1/2 " x 11" white bond paper with a complete and accurate bibliography used in writing the speech.
4. It is highly recommended that participants be in official FFA dress.

## **Subjects:**

Participants may choose any current subject for their speeches which is of an agricultural character (nature), and which may include agriscience & technology, agribusiness, agrimarketing, international agricultural relations, and agricultural communications. Official judges of any FFA Prepared Public Speaking Contest shall disqualify a participant if he/she speaks on a non-agricultural subject.

## **Time Limits:**

Each speech shall be a minimum of four minutes in length and a maximum of six minutes. Each participant will be allowed five minutes additional time in which he/she will be asked questions related to his/her speech. Deductions of 20 points per minute or major fraction thereof, will be made from the score of each judge for speeches under four minutes or over six minutes in length. (To prevent being penalized, a contestant must speak over three minutes, 30 seconds, and under six minutes, 30 seconds.)

## **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 used by each contestant in delivering their 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. Prior to the contest the judges will be furnished with typewritten copies of the contestants' productions, which they will read and grade on content and composition, recording their judgment on a score sheet, which will also be provided.
  5. 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 production, using the score sheet provided.
  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 contestant on the ability to answer all questions asked by all judges. The full five minutes for questions should be used.
  7. When all contestants have finished speaking, each judge will total the score on composition and delivery for each contestant. The timekeepers' record will be used in computing the final score for each contestant. The judges' score sheets will then be submitted to determine final ratings of contestants.
  8. 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 placings 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.

### **The Bibliography**

All contestants in the FFA Jr. Prepared Public Speaking Contest 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 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" in the manuscript and be identified in the bibliography. Failure to do so will automatically disqualify a contestant.

### **Explanation of Score Sheet Points**

Part I – For Scoring Content and Composition

1. Content of the manuscript includes:
  - a. Importance and appropriateness of the subject
  - b. Suitability of the material used
  - c. Accuracy of the statements included
  - d. Evidence of purpose

- e. Completeness and accuracy of bibliography
2. Composition of the manuscript includes:
- a. Organization of the content
  - b. Unity of thought
  - c. Logical development
  - d. Language used
  - e. Sentence structure
  - f. Accomplishment of purpose and conclusion

Part II – For Scoring Delivery of Production

1. Voice includes:
- a. Quality
  - b. Pitch
  - c. Articulation
  - d. Pronunciation
  - e. Force
2. Stage Presence includes:
- a. Personal appearance
  - b. Poise and body posture
  - c. Attitude
  - d. Confidence
  - e. Personality
  - f. Ease before audience
3. Power of Expression includes:
- a. Fluency
  - b. Emphasis
  - c. Directness
  - d. Sincerity
  - e. Communicative ability
  - f. Conveyance of thought and meaning
4. Response to questions includes:
- a. Ability to answer satisfactorily the questions on the speech which are asked by the judges indicating originality, familiarity with subject and ability to think quickly
5. General effect includes:
- a. Extent to which the speech was interesting, understandable, convincing, pleasing and held attention

**\*NOTE: Judges should meet prior to the contest to prepare and clarify the questions to be asked.**

revised 4/17/05