

I. OVERVIEW

Participants in the Creed Speaking LDE present the FFA Creed to a panel of judges. Once their presentation is complete, they respond to questions directly related to the FFA Creed.

II. PURPOSE

The FFA Creed outlines the organization's 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 FFA members as well as develop their self-confidence and contribute to their advancement in the FFA degree program.

III. ELIGIBILITY

This event is open to students in grades 6-9 who are agricultural education students and are paid members of a chartered FFA chapter. Each student's name must appear on the chapter's FFA roster at least 10 days prior to competition above the chapter level.

Members who are participating in the area competition must first have qualified through earlier elimination brackets (if necessary). The top two participants in each area are eligible for state competition. This LDE does not have a national level of competition. A winning student may not participate in any other LDE that has a national competition. Also, no student who is already a member of a state winning LDE team that will participate in a national competition is eligible to participate. A student may only participate in one state speaking competition per year.

IV. SPECIAL NEEDS REQUEST

To report any special needs or request special services for a student to compete in a Leadership Development Event or FFA Award area (Area or State level), it is the responsibility of the FFA advisor to provide a detailed and specific request and explanation in writing. Requests should include written documentation from the school system verifying the IEP and need being requested. Written requests must be submitted to the CDE/LDE Superintendent prior to registering for the CDE/LDE/event (at least 3 weeks prior to the date of competition).

V. RULES

1. The Creed Speaking event is limited to one student per chapter on the area level, and two students per area on the state level.
2. This event will follow the general procedure established for all Georgia FFA Career Development Events.
3. It is highly recommended that participants be in official dress as outlined in the Official FFA Manual.
4. Following the CDE orientation, participants will be held in isolation until their presentation. While in isolation, participants are to have no contact from anyone outside and have no access to electronic devices.
5. The State FFA Executive Committee and their appointees will be in charge of this event.

VI. EVENT FORMAT

1. The event will include an oral presentation and answering critical thinking questions directly related to the Creed. Each participant will be asked three questions per round with a five-minute total time limit for answers. Judges in a round will use the same questions for each contestant speaking in their room. The questions used will change for the candidates who advance to the final round. Questions will be selected from a bank of questions provided to the judges by the LDE Superintendent.
2. Members will present the Creed from the current year's Official FFA Manual.
3. The event will be a timed activity with four minutes for presentation. After four minutes, the participant will be deducted 1 point for every second over set time.
4. The state Creed LDE will be conducted in two rounds: preliminary (12 participants; 2 flights of 6 speakers per room), and finals (4 participants; top two from each preliminary room).
5. Speaking order will be randomly drawn as determined by the LDE Superintendent.
6. Each participant will recite the Creed from memory. Each participant shall begin the presentation by stating, "The FFA Creed by E.M. Tiffany." Each LDE participant should end the presentation with the statement, "... that inspiring task. Thank you." Any additional words inserted between these two phrases will incur point deductions.
7. At the time of the event, the judges will be seated in a designated section of the room in which the event is held. They will score each participant on the delivery of the Creed, using the score sheet provided.
8. Timekeepers will be designated to record the time used by each participant in delivering his/her speech. Content accuracy judges will record the number of recitation errors during delivery.
9. When participants have finished the presentation and answering questions, each judge will total the score of each speaker. The timekeepers' and accuracy judges' records will be used to compute each contestant's final score. The judges' score sheets will then be submitted to event officials to determine final rankings.
10. Participants will 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 participant then will be added, and the winner will be that participant whose total ranking is the lowest.

VII. SCORING

Total possible points for the Creed CDE is 100 points. Please see the Creed LDE score sheet below (page 4).

Consult the National FFA Career Development Handbook or the CDE section of the National FFA website (www.ffa.org.)

VIII. TIE BREAKERS

Ties will be broken based on the greatest number of low ranks. Participant's 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, then the event superintendent will rank the participant's response to questions. The participant with the greatest number of low ranks from the response to questions will be declared the winner. If a tie still exists then the participant's raw scores will be totaled. The participant with the greatest total of raw points will be declared the winner.

IX. AWARDS

Awards shall be determined each year by the Board of Trustees of the Georgia FFA Foundation. The event is made possible through the Georgia FFA Foundation as a special project of an industry sponsor or from the Foundation General Fund. Minimum awards will recognize the first-place individual in each area, and the first and second place individuals at the state level.

X. 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 finals hall footage are available by logging in to FFA.org/participate/ldes/creed-speaking.
- National FFA Core Catalog: Developing Great Speeches Guide
- Current year's Official FFA Manual



REVISED

The FFA Creed Speaking Script

REVISED



THE FOLLOWING IS EXACTLY WHAT MUST BE RECITED:

“The FFA Creed by E.M. Tiffany

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.

Thank you”

**ALL RECITATION ERRORS
(MISSED WORDS) MUST BE
CIRCLED**

Total # of Recitation Errors: _____

Question Time: _____

Determination of Deductions

Number of errors _____ x 2 = _____

Total Deduction: _____



The creed was written by E.M Tiffany and adopted at the 3rd National Convention of the FFA. It was revised at the 38th Convention and the 63rd Convention.

Preliminary Brackets

The State FFA Creed Speaking CDE will consist of two preliminary brackets and the finals. The top two places from each area will compete in the two preliminary brackets. The two preliminary brackets will be as follows.

BRACKET A	BRACKET B
First Place Area I	Second Place Area I
Second Place Area II	First Place Area II
First Place Area III	Second Place Area III
Second Place Area IV	First Place Area IV
First Place Area V	Second Place Area V
Second Place Area VI	First Place Area VI

State Finals

The top two places from Bracket A and Bracket B will compete in the state finals.

Creed Speaking LDE Presentation Rubric

100 points

Participant # _____

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	

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
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		
				Time Deduction*		
				Accuracy Deduction**		
				NET TOTAL POINTS		
				RANK		

* -1 point per second over, determined by the timekeepers

** - 2 points per word, determined by the accuracy judges