ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION FFA
Rules for Extemporaneous Public Speaking CDE

Eligibility
1. The CDE is open to students who are regularly enrolled in agricultural education classes and who are active members of chartered FFA chapters in good standing with the State Association.
2. Each chapter may enter one FFA member.
3. Props or equipment are not to be used in this CDE.
4. A participant will be permitted to use notes while speaking.
5. All participants are required to wear official FFA dress when delivering their speech.

Subject
1. Prior to the event, the participant should select an area of agriculture from the list below and gather research and references to assist them in composing their speech. The four major agriculture areas are:
   - Agriscience & Technology
   - Agrimarketing & International Agriculture Relations
   - Food & Fiber Systems
   - Urban Agriculture
2. Approximately twenty-five (25) minutes prior to their scheduled speaking time, each participant will draw two topics, which have not been publicized, from their agriculture area. [Note: Sample topics are included in these rules, but the topics used in the CDE are not limited to these examples]
3. The participant will speak on the one of the topics chosen and both topics will be placed back in the pool for possible use by a succeeding participant.
4. Each participant will have twenty (20) minutes in which to prepare their speech. The participant may use any reference material brought by themselves to the preparation room. No handwritten reference materials of any type will be allowed.
5. Uniform note cards will be provided each participant. Any notes for speaking must be made during the 20-minute preparation period. Notes may not be prepared prior to the CDE.
6. Each participant’s speech is to be the result of his or her own efforts. Training in both composition and delivery are limited to the resources of the school from which the participant comes, but facts and working data may be secured from any source.

Time Limit
1. Two timekeepers shall be designated to record the time used by each participant in delivering their speech, noting under-time or over-time, if any, for which deductions should be made. Timekeepers should be seated together.
2. Each participant must speak a minimum of three minutes without penalty. At the end of this time, the timer will stand or otherwise signal. The participant may then have two additional minutes to summarize and complete the presentation.
3. Participants are to be penalized one point per second on each judge's score sheet for being over five minutes or under three minutes.
4. Time commences when the speaker begins talking.
5. The participant’s speech will be followed by a five (5) minute period, during which the judges will ask them questions relating to their speech. The time for the question period will begin when the first judge begins asking a question.
6. At the end of the five-minute question period, the timekeeper(s) will call time. When time is called the speaker, if interrupted, may complete the sentence they were saying or they may stop in mid-sentence with no penalty.

**Method of Selecting Winner**

1. Participants will draw for order of speaking. The room host will then introduce each participant by name and topic. Applause shall be withheld until all participants have spoken.
2. Three competent and impartial persons will be selected to judge the CDE. When possible, the judges should have an agricultural background.
3. During the presentation, the judges will be seated in different sections of the room in which the event is held. They will score each participant upon the delivery of their presentation, using the score sheet provided.
4. Each judge shall formulate and ask questions that pertain directly to the speaker's subject. All judges will ask at least one question.
5. Questions containing two or more parts should be avoided.
6. Judges will score each participant on their ability to answer all questions asked by all judges.
7. The full five minutes for questions should be used.
8. When all participants have finished speaking, each judge will total their score on each participant. The timekeepers' records will be used in computing the final score for each participant.
9. Participants shall be ranked in numerical order by each judge without consultation with any other judge.
10. If any judge's scoring results in a tie between two or more speakers, the judge shall be asked to re-score so as to avoid the tie.
11. After a judge has broken all ties in total score they will rank all participants in numerical order without consulting any other judge. The rankings of the three judges shall then be added and the winner will be the participant whose total of rankings is the lowest. Other placings shall be determined in the same manner (Low point score method of selection).
12. If a tie occurs when adding the rankings of the three judges, the individual who has the highest grand total score shall be ranked higher.

**LEVELS OF COMPETITION**

1. All section and district CDEs shall be conducted alike and conform with the State Extemporaneous Public Speaking CDE rules.
2. Winners are eligible to participate only in the next succeeding section, district, state and national CDEs.
3. The first and second place participant at the Section Extemporaneous Public Speaking CDE will advance to the District competition.
4. The first and second place participants at the District Extemporaneous Public Speaking CDE will advance to the State Extemporaneous Public Speaking Semi-Finals.
5. The top three finalists from the semi-finals will compete for the state award at the State FFA Convention.
6. Awards shall be the same as Public Speaking awards on all levels.
Sample Topics for Extemporaneous Public Speaking
(These are samples. Additional topics maybe used for the actual CDE)

Agriscience & Technology
Using Hydroponics to Produce Food Crops
Using the Earth's Resources
Reproducing Plants
Using Biotechnology to Improve Life
Applying Principles of Soil Science
Applying Science to Food Preservation
Designing and Conducting Agricultural Research
Controlling Electrical Current: Circuits, Conductors & Insulators
Soil and Water Relationships: Permeability and Drainage
Animal Breeding and Reproduction

Food & Fiber Systems
Methods of Harvesting Timber
Selecting Seed
Developing Conservation Plan
Managing the Cow-Calf Herb
Managing Market Hogs
Maximizing Your Crop Harvest
Conservation Tillage
The Use of Chemicals in Livestock Feed
Principles of Field Scouting
Maintaining Animal Health

Agrimarketing & International Agriculture Relations
Selecting a Marketing Strategy
Establishing Prices for Meat Animals
Careers in Agriculture Sales
Using Commodity Futures
Manufacturing and Distributing Agricultural Equipment
Marketing Horticultural Products and Services
Understanding the World Food and Fiber Chain
United States Polices Affecting World Markets
The Effect of Tariffs and Embargoes on World Trade
How Foreign Competition Affects U.S. Trade Opportunities

Urban Agriculture
Improving Life with Companion Animals
Urban Encroachment on Farmland
Developing a Community Garden
Managing a Pet Store
Lawn Chemicals and the Urban Environment
Indoor Landscaping
Managing a Greenhouse
Developing Community Parks
Establishing a Farmers Market
Ag Literacy Activities for Urban Residence
# EXPLANATION OF SCORE SHEET POINTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Extemporaneous Public Speaking</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| A. Official Dress:  
  **Male** - Black dress shoes (not tennis shoes), black socks, black dress pants (not jeans), white collared (or light colored), button-down dress shirt, dark colored tie, and Official FFA jacket. No hats of any kind.  
  **Female** - Black closed-toe dress shoes (no tall boots), black nylons, knee length black skirt or black dress slacks, white collared (or light colored), button-down dress shirt, FFA scarf, and Official FFA jacket. | 100 |
| B. Knowledge of Subject includes:  
  Importance and appropriateness of the subject  
  Suitability of the material used  
  Accuracy of the statements included  
  Evidence of purpose | 200 |
| C. Organization of Material includes:  
  Relevance to the topic selected  
  Organization of the content  
  Unity of thought  
  Logical development  
  Language used  
  Sentence structure  
  Accomplishment of purpose -- conclusions | 150 |
| D. Power of expression includes:  
  Fluency  
  Emphasis  
  Directness  
  Sincerity  
  Communicative ability  
  Conveyance of thought and meaning | 150 |
| E. Voice includes:  
  Quality  
  Pitch  
  Articulation  
  Pronunciation  
  Force | 100 |
| F. Stage presence includes:  
  Personal appearance  
  Poise and body posture  
  Attitude  
  Confidence  
  Personality  
  Ease before audience | 100 |
| G. General effect includes:  
  Extent to which the speech was interesting  
  Extent to which the speech was understandable  
  Extent to which the speech was convincing  
  Extent to which the speech was pleasing  
  Extent to which the speech held attention | 100 |
| H. Response to questions includes:  
  Originality of response  
  Demonstrates a familiarity with the subject  
  An ability to think quickly | 200 |
| **Total** | **1100** |

**Note:** Judges should meet prior to the CDE to prepare and clarify the questions to be asked.
# FINAL RANKING SHEET
## EXTEMPORANEOUS PUBLIC SPEAKING CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT

When all contestants have finished speaking, the chairperson of the CDE will assemble the score sheets from all judges and timekeepers. Totals shall then be compiled. The CDE chairperson should then complete the "Final Ranking Sheet" **USING THE RANKING ONLY, NOT THE ACTUAL SCORES.**

Rankings taken from judges' score sheets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Order of Speaking</th>
<th>Judge #1</th>
<th>Judge #2</th>
<th>Judge #3</th>
<th>Total of Judges’ Rankings</th>
<th>Final Ranking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contestant’s Name or Code Number</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** In arriving at final rankings, the lowest total of the Judges' rankings receives first place, the next lowest total is second, etc. However, if two of three judges rank any contestant first, that contestant shall receive first place regardless of the opinion of the third judge. If a tie occurs when adding the rankings of the three judges, the individual who has the highest grand total score shall be ranked higher.
Illinois Association FFA

Judge's Score Sheet – Extemporaneous Public Speaking CDE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items to be Scored</th>
<th>Points Allowed</th>
<th>Points Awarded to Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Official Dress</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Knowledge of Subject</td>
<td>200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Organization of Material</td>
<td>150</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Power of Expression</td>
<td>150</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Voice</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Stage Presence</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. General Effect</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Response to Questions</td>
<td>200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Points (Gross)
(All ties must be broken)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Less over-time or under-time</th>
<th>1 Point per</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>deductions</td>
<td>Second</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Points (Net)

Contestant Rank

*The final ranking sheet included with the rules shall be used to summarize judges' score sheets.