



National Agriculture Creed Public Speaking LEAD Contest Rules

Purpose

The Agriculture Creed outlines the 4-H Ghana's beliefs regarding the industry of agriculture, 4-H membership and the value of citizenship and patriotism. The purpose of the Agriculture Creed Public Speaking LEAD Contest is to develop the public speaking abilities of 4-H members as well as develop their self-confidence and contribute to their advancement leadership development.

Eligibility

1. The LEAD Contest is open to students who are active members of 4-H school or community club in good standing with National 4-H Ghana.
2. Each club is entitled to two participants in a circuit or district level contest. It is suggested these members be selected in a club contest held prior to the circuit or district LEAD Contest.
3. Each participant must recite the Agriculture Creed without **any** opening or closing comments. It is acceptable to introduce the Agriculture Creed by stating "The Agriculture Creed by E.M. Tiffany" and to conclude by stating "Thank you. Are there any questions?" Remarks beyond these comments can result in a reduction of the participant's points.
4. Each participant must recite the Agriculture Creed from memory. It is suggested that participants take advantage of all available training resources in their school to develop their speaking ability.

Procedures

1. *The event supervisor shall identify the method of determining the speaking order and that decision is not open to appeal.*
2. *The event supervisor may determine the order of speaking in one of two ways:*
 - a) *A draw for the speaking order, or*
 - b) *Allowing participants to schedule a time to speak.*
3. *When the speaker is brought into the speaking room, the room host will introduce each participant by name. Applause shall be withheld until all participants have spoken.*
4. The event will be a timed activity with four minutes for the oral presentation. After four minutes, 1 point for every second over set time will be deducted from the participant's final score on all judges' score cards.
5. Three competent and impartial persons will be selected to judge the LEAD Contest.
6. 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.
7. From the "Approved List of Agriculture Creed Public Speaking LEAD Contest Questions", which deal with the participants' knowledge and understanding of the Creed, the judges will select four (4) of the twenty-seven (27) questions. Judges will be allowed to create up to two (2) additional questions, which deal with the participants' knowledge and understanding of the Creed, to ask participants for a total of six (6) questions.
8. A maximum of five (5) minutes will be allowed for the judges to ask the six (6) questions. Each judge shall ask the same question(s) to each participant and questions must be asked in the same order to all participants. Under no circumstances may the five-minute questioning period be exceeded and under no circumstances may more than the six questions be asked. [Note: Some participants may not utilize the entire five minute period for their answers, while other participants may provide



lengthy answers and the five minute time period for questions will elapse before all six questions are asked.]

Method of Selecting Winner

1. When all participants have finished speaking, each judge will total their score on each participant. If a judge has a tie between two or more speakers, the judge shall be asked to re-score to eliminate the tie.
2. 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).
3. 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.
4. The Contest Superintendent in each Contest shall designate a first and second place participant.

Levels of Competition

1. All circuit, district, and regional LEAD Contests shall be conducted alike and conform with the National Agriculture Creed Public Speaking rules.
2. Winners are eligible to participate only in the next succeeding District, Region, and National LEAD Contests.
3. Each Club is allowed two participants to attend the circuit level of competition if it is held. The first and second place participant at the circuit Creed Public Speaking LEAD Contest will advance to the district competition. If there is no circuit competition held, each club is allowed two participants to attend the district competition.
4. The first and second place participants at the district Agriculture Creed Public Speaking LEAD Contest will advance to the regional Prepared Public Speaking finals.
5. The first and second place participants at the Regional Creed Public Speaking LEAD Contest will advance to the national Agriculture Creed Public Speaking finals.



APPROVED LIST OF AGRICULTURE CREED PUBLIC SPEAKING QUESTIONS

1. What prompted you to participate in this public speaking event?
2. Why is the Creed important to the 4-H?
3. What is the most important part of the Creed to you and why?
4. If you rewrote the Creed, what would you change?
5. Why must faith be born not of words but of deeds?
6. Is there a promise of better days in the future of Agriculture?
7. What are some of the "better things we now enjoy that have come to us from the struggles of former years"?
8. How do you interpret "joys and discomforts of agricultural life"?
9. How do you interpret "to work on a good farm is pleasant"?
10. How are experiences found in agriculture pursuits "pleasant as well as challenging"?
11. What is an achievement, won by past generations of agriculturalists, and how has it brought better days to the agriculture industry?
12. What achievements have been developed in your lifetime that will bring "better days through better ways" to the agriculture industry?
13. What discouragement do you expect to encounter as you become engaged in farming or another agricultural pursuit?
14. How do you interpret "I believe in leadership from ourselves and respect from others"?
15. How will you develop your own ability to work efficiently and think clearly?
16. How do you interpret "with such knowledge and skill as I can secure"?
17. What is a progressive agriculturist?
18. How do you interpret "to serve our own and the public interest in producing and marketing the product of our toil"?
19. What is the product of our toil?
20. How do you interpret "less dependence on begging and more power in bargaining"?
21. How do you interpret "life abundant and enough honest wealth to make it so"?
22. How do you interpret "in less need for charity and more of it when needed"?
23. How do you interpret "working fairly with those whose happiness depends on me"?
24. How can Ghanaian Agriculture hold true to the best traditions of our national life?
25. How do you interpret "best traditions of our national life" and why are they important to Ghanaian Agriculture?
26. How can you and your fellow 4-H members exert a positive influence on our homes and community?
27. How do you interpret "my part in that inspiring task"?



The Agriculture Creed

As adapted from 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 working fairly with those whose happiness depends upon me.

I believe that Ghanaian 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.

*The Agriculture Creed modifications by 4-H Ghana 2016 are from E.M. Tiffany's original work, commonly known as the FFA Creed.



Agriculture Creed Public Speaking Presentation Rubric - 1,000 points				Participant _____		
Indicators	Very strong evidence skill is <u>present</u> 5 - 4 points	Moderate evidence skill is <u>present</u> 3 - 2 points	Strong evidence skill is <u>not present</u> 1 - 0 points	Points Earned	Weight	Total Score
Oral Communication – 300 points						
A. Speaking without hesitation	Speaks very articulately without hesitation. Never has the need for unnecessary pauses or hesitation when speaking.	Speaks articulately, but sometimes hesitates. Occasionally has the need for a long pause or moderate hesitation when speaking.	Speaks articulately, but frequently hesitates. Frequently hesitates or has long, awkward pauses while speaking.		X 20	
B. Pace	Speaks at a moderate pace to be clear.	Speaks at a moderate pace most of the time, but shows some nervousness.	Pace is too fast/slow; nervous.		X 5	
C. 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 5	
D. Pronunciation	Pronunciation of words is very clear and intent is apparent.	Pronunciation of words is usually clear, sometimes mumbled.	Pronunciation of words is difficult to understand; unclear.		X 5	
E. 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 5	
F. Accuracy	Presented the text without error or with only a minor word substitution. (0-5 words)	Presented the text, but substituted or omitted words. (6-10 words)	Omitted or reversed the order of phrases or paragraphs. (over 10 words)		X 20	
Non-verbal Communication – 300 points						
A. Attention (eye contact)	Eye contact constantly used as an effective connection. ● Constantly looks at the entire audience (90-100% of the time).	Eye contact is mostly effective and consistent. ● Mostly looks around the audience (60-80% of the time)	Eye contact does not always allow connection with the speaker. ● Occasionally looks at someone or some groups (less than 50% of the time).		X 15	
B. Mannerisms	Does not have distracting mannerisms that affect effectiveness. ● No nervous habits.	Sometimes has mannerisms that distract ● Sometimes exhibits nervous habits or ticks.	Has mannerisms that distract from the effectiveness of the presentation. ● Displays nervous habits – fidgets or anxious ticks.		X 15	

Indicators	Very strong evidence skill is present 5 - 4 points	Moderate evidence skill is present 3 - 2 points	Strong evidence skill is not present 1 - 0 points	Points Earned	Weight	Total Score
C. Gestures	Gestures are purposeful and effective. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand motions are expressive and used to emphasize talking points. • Great posture (confident) with positive body language. 	Usually uses purposeful gestures. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hands are sometimes used to express or emphasize. • Occasionally slumps; sometimes negative body language. 	Occasionally gestures are used effectively. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hands are not used to emphasize talking points; hand motions are sometimes distracting. • Lacks positive body language; slumps. 		X 15	
D. Well poised	Is extremely well poised. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poised and in control at all times. 	Usually is well poised. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poised and in control most of the time; rarely loses composure. 	Isn't always well poised. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sometimes seems to lose composure. 		X 15	
Question and Answer—400 points						
A. Being detail oriented	Is able to stay fully detail-oriented. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always provides details which support answers/basis of the question. 	Is mostly good at being detail-oriented. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually provides details which are supportive of the answers/basis of the question. 	Has difficulty being detail-oriented. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sometimes overlooks details that could be very beneficial to the answers/basis of the question. 		X 30	
B. Speaking unrehearsed	Speaks unrehearsed with comfort and ease. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is able to speak quickly with organized thoughts and concise answers. 	Speaks unrehearsed mostly with comfort and ease, but sometimes seems nervous or unsure. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is able to speak effectively, has to stop and think and sometimes gets off focus. 	Shows nervousness or seems unprepared when speaking unrehearsed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seems to ramble or speaks before thinking. 		X 30	
C. Examples used in response to questions	Examples are vivid, precise and clearly explained. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples are original, logical and relevant. 	Examples are usually concrete, some-times needs clarification. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples are effective, but need more originality or thought. 	Examples are abstract or not clearly defined. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples are sometimes confusing, leaving the listeners with questions. 		X20	
				Total Points		
				Contestant Rank		

Judge's Name or #



FINAL RANKING SHEET

CREED SPEAKING CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT

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

Rankings taken from judges' score sheets

Order of Speaking										
Contestant's Name or Code Number										
Judge #1										
Judge #2										
Judge #3										
Total of Judges' Rankings										
Final Ranking										

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.