

**Discovery Speaking
Middle School****Objective**

To develop the ability of young FFA members to competently express themselves as they assume the responsibilities of leadership within the agriculture industry.

A. Rules and Regulations

1. The event is open to all middle school students who are involved in local agricultural education courses and FFA. Students participating in this event must be bona fide FFA members.
2. Each district will determine the number of individuals per school allowed to compete at the district level, if a district event is held. Each district may send the top two individuals, with up to two additional teams identified as alternates, to the state level competition regardless of ribbon color awarded at the district level.
3. A Discovery Speaker may not participate in both Agriculture Literacy and Discovery Speaking in the same year, nor may a student complete in an event which they previously won at the state level.
4. Each speech will be no more than four minutes and no less than two minutes in length. Participants will receive a warning at the three-minute point. One point will be deducted for each second that the student speaks over time or under time. A maximum of three minutes of additional time will be allowed each participant to answer questions asked by the evaluators.
5. A cover page shall be included at the front of the speech manuscript, and it must include the participant's name, chapter, "Discovery Speaking Leadership Development Event", and the title of the speech. A bibliography must be included as part of the participant's manuscript, and direct quotes from any source of information must be in quotes on the manuscript and identified with the bibliography. **APA** format is to be used for references and citations. Cover page and bibliography, in APA format, are mandatory. Charts and other visual aids **are prohibited**.
6. The participant's use of a manuscript while speaking is prohibited at the district and state events; note cards are acceptable.
7. State-qualifying participants will submit an electronic typewritten copies of the complete manuscript including the cover page and bibliography for the state event. Manuscripts must be submitted to the state FFA office by the date designated on the Nebraska FFA website.
8. A middle school student may choose to address any current and relevant topic of the agriculture industry's pathways: agribusiness systems, animal systems, environmental services and natural resources systems, food products and processing systems, plant systems, or power, structural and technical systems. This event is a middle school parallel version of the Junior Public Speaking LDE and the Public Speaking LDE.

B. Suggested Guide for Conducting FFA Discovery Speaking Leadership Development Event*Prior to the Event*

1. The order of appearance to be used shall be determined in advance of the event.
2. Provide one of the following to each evaluator:
 - a. Discovery Speaking Rules (this document)
 - b. Scoring Rubric – one per participant
 - c. Official Score Card/Results Sheets
 - d. Order of Appearance Roster

Start Event

1. Each participant will be introduced by the individual coordinating the event. Introduction will include the participant's name and chapter.
Example: The next speaker is Alex Greenhand of the Blue and Gold FFA Chapter.
2. After the participant is finished, the timer will record the time and forward to the evaluators.
3. Each participant is to be allowed a maximum of three minutes for questioning by the evaluators. These questions are to be based on the speech content.

After Event

1. Each evaluator shall total each participant's score and arrive at the placing. Discussion between evaluators is allowed and encouraged. Audience members and participants shall not be present during evaluator discussion.
2. Ribbons may be awarded according to the guidelines on the results sheets. The top four participants shall be ranked, regardless of their ribbon assignment, and up to two individuals regardless of their ribbon rating at the district level may advance to the state round of competition. Advancing speakers are to be of high quality.
3. A critique sheet shall be completed for each participant.
4. Two copies of the results should be completed on the form provided to the judges. List name and chapter of each participant.
5. District FFA board representatives must verify membership of all state-qualifying competitors within one week of the district event.

Event Attire

1. Each participant shall wear the official FFA dress as defined in the FFA Manual.

C. Official Score Card

Topic relevance.....	30
Persuasive explanation of position on topic	40
Alternative viewpoints recognized	20
Logical order and unity of thought	20
Spelling and grammar.....	35
Quality of resources	30
Manuscript written according to guidelines	25
Oral and non-verbal communication:	
Supporting evidence	75
Persuasive use of evidence	75
Pace	75
Command of audience.....	100
Eye contact	50
Mannerisms and gestures	50
Poise.....	75
Response to questions:	
Response to questions.....	100
Knowledge of topic	<u>200</u>
Total.....	1000

Time Penalty: one point is deducted for each second under time or over time

D. Awards Recognition

1. District Awards: Participants meriting awards shall be rated as purple, blue, red, or white and the top four participants shall be ranked by number (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th). Each district may send the top two contestants, with up to two additional contestants identified as alternates, to the state round of competition.
2. State Awards: Participants in the state event will be designated as gold, silver, or bronze medal recipients.

DISCOVERY SPEAKING EVENT CRITIQUE SHEET

Participant: _____

Chapter: _____

Speaking Topic: _____

Time: _____

INDICATOR	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
Topic relevance	Topic addressed is relevant to the industry of agriculture.	Topic addressed shows some relevance to the industry of agriculture.	Topic addresses an issue that is irrelevant to the industry of agriculture.		X 6	
Comments:						
Persuasive explanation of position on topic	Position clearly stated and ample evidence is provided.	Position is not obvious and evidence is not clearly provided.	Position is not stated and evidence is not provided.		X 8	
Comments:						
Alternative viewpoints recognized	Identifies and counters alternative viewpoints.	Only identifies alternate viewpoints.	Does not identify alternate viewpoints.		X 4	
Comments:						
Logical order and unity of thought	Clearly organized and concise with strong introduction, body and conclusion layout.	Good organization with few statements out of place or lacking in clear construction.	Little to no organization is present; sometimes awkward and lacking construction.		X 4	
Comments:						
Spelling/grammar (sentence structure, verb agreement, etc.).	Spelling and grammar are extremely high quality with two or less errors in the document.	Spelling and grammar are adequate with three to five errors in the document.	Spelling and grammar are less than adequate with six or more errors in the document.		X 7	
Comments:						
Quality of resources	Resources are from reputable sources.	Resources are from questionable sources.	Resources are unreliable and invalid.		X 6	
Comments:						

Manuscript written according to guidelines <small>*Judges are advised not to review manuscripts during presentations.</small>	5 points		0 points			
Double-spaced formatted to 8½" x 11" with 1" margins 12 point serif (Times new roman, Cambria, etc.) or sans serif font (Arial, Calibri, etc.)					X1	
Cover page with speech title, participant's name, chapter and event					X1	
APA style for references and citations					X3	
Comments: 						
Sub-total Points						

INDICATOR	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 and non-verbal communication						
Supporting evidence	Examples (stories, statistics, etc.) are vivid, precise and clearly explained.	Examples are usually concrete and sometimes need clarification.	Examples are sometimes confusing leaving the listeners with questions.		X 15	
Comments:						
Persuasive use of evidence	Exemplary use of evidence to persuade listeners.	Sufficient use of evidence to persuade listeners.	Has difficulty using evidence to persuade listeners.		X 15	
Comments:						
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 15	
Comments:						
Command of audience	Speaker uses appropriate emphasis and tone to captivate audience.	Speaker presents speech as mere repeating of facts and speech comes across as a report.	Speaker lacks enthusiasm and power to engage audience		X 20	
Comments:						
Eye contact	Constantly looks at the entire audience (90 to 100 percent of the time).	Mostly looks around the audience (60 to 80 percent of the time).	Occasionally looks at someone or some groups (less than 50 percent of the time).		X 10	
Comments:						
Mannerisms and gestures	No nervous habits are displayed. Hand motions are expressive and used to emphasize talking points.	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 10	
Comments:						
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 15	

Response to questions						
Response to questions	Is able to respond with organized thoughts and concise answers.	Answers effectively but has to stop and think and sometimes gets off focus.	Rambles or responds before thinking.		X20	
Knowledge of topic	Answer shows thorough knowledge of the subject and supports answer with strong evidence.	Answer shows some knowledge of the subject but lacks strong evidence.	Answer shows little knowledge of subject and lacks evidence		X40	
					Sub-total Points	
-1 point per second under 2 minutes or over 4 minutes by the timekeeper						
					Total Points	

GENERAL COMMENTS:

DISCOVERY SPEAKING EVENT SCORE SHEET

Participant: _____

Chapter: _____

Speaking Topic: _____

Time: _____

Content of Speech – 200 points				
INDICATOR	Very strong evidence of skill is present	Moderate evidence of skill is present	Strong evidence of skill is not present	Total Points
Topic relevance <i>(30 points maximum)</i>				
Persuasive explanation of position on topic <i>(40 points maximum)</i>				
Alternative viewpoints recognized <i>(20 points maximum)</i>				
Logical order and unity of thought <i>(20 points maximum)</i>				
Spelling/grammar (sentence structure, verb agreement, etc.) <i>(35 points maximum)</i>				
Quality of resources <i>(30 points maximum)</i>				
Double-spaced formatted to 8½" x 11" with 1" margins, 12 point (Times new roman, Cambria, Calibri, etc.) <i>(5 points maximum)</i>				
Cover page with speech title, participant's name, chapter and event <i>(5 points maximum)</i>				
APA style for references and citations <i>(15 points maximum)</i>				
Oral communication and non-verbal communication – 500 possible points				
Supporting evidence <i>(75 points maximum)</i>				
Persuasive use of evidence <i>(75 points maximum)</i>				
Pace <i>(75 points maximum)</i>				
Command of audience <i>(100 points maximum)</i>				
Eye contact <i>(50 points maximum)</i>				
Mannerisms and gestures <i>(50 points maximum)</i>				
Poise <i>(75 points maximum)</i>				
Response to questions – 300 possible points				
Response to questions <i>(100 points maximum)</i>				
Knowledge of topic <i>(200 points maximum)</i>				
Sub-total Points				
-1 point per second under 2 minutes or over 4 minutes by the timekeeper				
Total Points				

GENERAL COMMENTS: