Speech Topics and Descriptions  
Revised in 2016

To find complete information concerning each speech division, please use the OSU State FFA Interscholastic web site. The OSU site has the official rules and guidelines for each speech division.

The following description for each speech division is provided to the participants as a suggested guideline for that division and is in no way meant to be all inclusive. Also, there are certainly some subject matter areas that could be appropriate in more than one division.

It is the responsibility of the participant to select subject matter appropriate and acceptable to the judges. Obviously, all subject matter should have ties to the agricultural industry.

Members may participate in more than one division if different speeches are given in each division. A different speech is defined as follows: “All speech material in each manuscript must be entirely different, including the introduction, body, and conclusion, which also includes all facts, figures, quotes, titles, etc.”

In all speech divisions it is desired, but not required, to tie “FFA” in as a part of your speech in an appropriate way. Career opportunities should also be considered. Historical aspects should be avoided.

**Designated FFA Prepared Public Speaking Divisions**

**ANIMAL SCIENCE:** Participants may choose any current or future subject that deals with any aspect of the industries of dairy, equine, poultry, sheep, swine, beef, specialty animals, etc.

**PLANT SCIENCE:** Participants may choose any current or future subject that deals with any aspect of the horticulture and/or agronomy industries. This may include such areas as floriculture, fruit and/or vegetable production, nursery operations, turf and landscape management, crop production, specialty crop production, etc.

**NATURAL RESOURCES:** Participants may choose any current or future subject that deals with topics such as soil, water, air, rural water, wildlife, forestry, aquaculture, conservation, recreation, recycling, energy, environmental issues, etc.

**AGRIBUSINESS:** Participants may choose any current or future subject that deals with topics such as cooperatives, sales, service, journalism, communications, entrepreneurship, marketing, finance, commodities, futures, hedging, advertising, etc.

**AGRICULTURAL POLICY:** Participants may choose any current or future subject that deals with topics such as domestic farm issues, international trade, rural economic development, politics, animal rights, law, subsidies, price supports, etc.
AGRICIENCE: Participants may choose any current or future subject that deals with topics such as biotechnology, biogenetics, bioengineering, mechanical engineering, farm safety, use of technology, research, laser, satellites, computers, embryo transfer, etc.

FFA Creed, Extemporaneous, and Other Divisions

FFA CREED

- This division is for freshman members only. First-year members competing in this division must be in the ninth grade (sophomores who are first-year members are not eligible).
- The FFA Creed was last revised in November 1990. A current copy of the Creed can be found on the back of the Creed score sheet.
- Each participant must recite the FFA Creed from memory. Each participant shall begin the presentation by stating, “The FFA Creed by E.M. Tiffany.” Each participant shall end the presentation with the statement “…that inspiring task. Thank you.”
- Judges are allowed three minutes to question participants following the presentation.

EXTEMPORANEOUS

- Topics will cover the following themes:
  - Agricultural literacy and advocacy
  - Current agricultural issues
  - Advancing agriculture through agriculture science
  - Current technology uses and applications in agriculture
  - Agrimarketing and international agriculture
  - Food and fiber systems
- Participants will draw three specific topics selected at random from a pool of topics relating to the industry of agriculture. After selecting the topic they desire to speak on, all three topics will be returned to the pool for the next drawing.
- Participants will be admitted to the preparation room at 15-minute intervals and given exactly 30 minutes for topic selection and preparation.
- Reference material shall be limited to five items.
- The officials in charge of the event will screen reference material on the following basis:
  - Must be limited to five items.
  - May be printed material such as books or magazines.
  - May be printed compilations of materials collected from internet research.
  - To be counted as one item, a notebook or folder of collected materials may contain no more than 100 single-sided pages or 50 pages double-sided numbered consecutively.
  - References should be in original format.
  - There can be no notes or speeches prepared by the participant or by another person for the purpose of use in this event. Cutting and pasting into a Microsoft Word document will be considered prepared notes.
• Each speech should be the result of the participant’s own effort using approved reference material which the participant may bring to the preparation room. No other assistance may be provided. Participants must use the uniform note cards provided. Any notes for speaking must be made during the 30 minute preparation period. A participant 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.

• This division is 4-6 minutes in length with five minutes for questioning. Participants will be penalized one point per second on each judge’s score sheet for being over six minutes or under four minutes. Time commences when the speaker begins talking. Speakers may use a watch to keep a record of their time. Event officials or observers will give no time warnings.

8TH GRADE AGRICULTURE EXPLORATION

• Participants may choose any current or future subject that deals with the industry of agriculture as a whole, or any segment of the agricultural industry.

• This division is for eighth-grade members only. First-year FFA members participating in this division must also be enrolled in eighth grade.

• This division is 4-6 minutes in length with five minutes for questioning.

9TH GRADE FFA OPPORTUNITIES

• Participants may choose any current or future subject that deals with the role of agricultural education and the FFA in the education and motivation of its members. Topics may deal with leadership, leadership training, personal development and growth, goal setting and teamwork, chapter and community activities, competitive activities, FFA opportunities, etc.

• This division is for freshman (ninth-grade) members only. All participants must be enrolled in the ninth grade.

• This division is 4-6 minutes in length with five minutes for questioning.

8-9-10TH GRADE GENERAL AGRICULTURE

• Participants may choose any current or future subject that deals with any aspect of the agricultural industry such as animal science, plant science, agribusiness, agricultural policy, agriscience, or natural resources. This division allows for pre-preparation for the FFA Prepared Divisions.

• Eighth-grade students who are also participating in the eighth-grade Agriculture Exploration division must develop an entirely different speech. See the state rule for the definition of a “different speech.”

• This division is 6-8 minutes in length with five minutes for questioning.