EXTEMPORANEOUS PUBLIC SPEAKING

Leadership Development Event

MICHIGAN FFA

Contest Details

Individual Event
Official Dress Required: Yes
National Qualifying Event: Yes

OBJECTIVES

To develop agricultural leadership by providing for membership participation in agricultural public speaking activities, and to stimulate interest in leadership and citizenship.

EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS

For educational standards, please refer to the Extemporaneous Public Speaking Handbook located at https://www.ffa.org/participate/lde s/extemporaneous-public-speaking/

TEAM MAKE-UP/ELIGIBILITY

Number of students

All participants must be members in good standing with the Michigan FFA Association and on the official roster.

Equipment needed by students/provided by contest

Paper and note cards will be provided by the contest.

Official Dress

Official dress is required for this contest.

Official Dress for an FFA member includes:

1. An official FFA jacket zipped to the top
2. Black slacks and black socks/nylons or black skirt and black nylons
    a. *Skirt should be a minimum of knee length*
    b. *Slacks should be full length*
3. White collared blouse or white collared shirt
4. Official FFA tie or official FFA scarf
5. Black dress shoes with closed heel and toe

Note: Medical or cultural adjustments to required official dress may be made with prior approval of contest/event chair. Also, appropriate personal protective equipment may be used with Official Dress. Junior high FFA members are allowed to wear FFA jackets, but it is optional. Participants in junior high contests should not be judged differently for wearing or not wearing a jacket.

If warranted, deductions for non-compliance with official dress guidelines will be determined by the contest chair and enforced equally by all judges. The chair may make a deduction of 0, 2, 5, 7, or 10 points.

CONTEST PERSONNEL

Judges

A total of three competent and unbiased judges will be provided.

Educators and industry representatives are recommended.

During the contest, the judges will seat themselves apart from one another in different sections of the room.

Contest Chair

The contest chair will monitor the contest room and assist the judges as they compile their final placing.

The contest chair will adequately prepare the judges before the event competition.

Timekeeper

The timekeeper should use a stopwatch and the guidelines provided on the Michigan FFA website. The timekeeper should also use the 8 ½” x 11” cards

available at https://www.michiganffa.org/sites/default/files/2026-09/Extemporaneous%20Public%20Speaking%20Timekeeper%20Signs.pdf

Holding Room Monitor

The holding room must be monitored at all times.

Preparation Room

The preparation room must be monitored at all times.

The preparation room should be in a location that minimizes distractions for the participant.

PROCEDURE

Preparation

It is suggested that contestants relate their preparations to the following specific subject areas of their interests and studies in the agricultural industry:

1. Natural Resources and Environmental Stewardship
2. Agricultural Literacy and Current Issues
3. Agriscience and Technology
4. Food and Fiber Systems

Reference Materials

Contestants are allowed to bring reference materials which will be screened by the contest chair (or assistant chair) before the contest begins. The following will apply to these materials:

Must be limited to **two total items** from the following options:

1. Pre-printed materials (1 or 2 pre-printed items allowed)
    a. Examples: Books, magazines, bulletins
2. Binder of compiled materials (only 1 binder allowed)

Binder requirements:

1. May contain no more than 50 single-sided pages or 25 double-sided pages. Pages must be numbered consecutively.

2. Material from only one resource, in original format, may be included on a page. Copying and pasting from multiple resources on a page will be considered prepared notes and is not allowed.
3. If material is pulled from an online source, the URL must be included on the page.
4. There can be no notes or speeches prepared by the participant or another individual included in the binder.
5. No highlighting, annotations, or notes on resources may be included in the binder.
6. Binders may include a table of contents. The table of contents may only list the topic name and page number in the binder. The table of contents must be included within the 50-page limit (single-sided) or 25-page limit (double-sided).
7. Divider tabs may be used, but no text may be on the dividers.

If a participant's materials do not meet the outlined requirements, the student will be given the opportunity to adjust their materials to meet the requirements. If this can be accomplished within a reasonable timeframe (e.g., removing extra pages from a binder to be within the page limit), the student can retain the reference item for use during the contest. If this change cannot be made within a reasonable timeframe, the reference item will not be allowed.

Contest Procedures

Order of appearance will be drawn by lot, 30 minutes before the contest is to begin.

Two speech topics will be prepared for each subject area. The contestant will choose one in which they will write the speech.

A contestant may choose to alternate the major subject area between district, regional, and state contests.

As soon as the contestant has chosen a topic, they will have 30 minutes to prepare their speech. Each speech shall be the result of the contestant's own effort.

Each contestant in sequence of appearance will choose their topic every ten minutes and proceed to the preparation room.

A participant may be disqualified if anyone other than the contest chair, holding room, or prep room monitor enters the holding room or the prep room at any time during the competition.

If brief notes prepared in the preparation room are used, they should not detract from the effectiveness of the presentation.

Prior to the speech, the participant should introduce themself, speech topic and the name of their FFA chapter, and then immediately proceed with, "Timekeeper, I am ready to begin my presentation," or "Honorable Timekeeper, I am ready to begin my presentation."

The participant must conclude their presentation with, "Timekeeper, this concludes my presentation," or "Honorable timekeeper, this concludes my presentation."

At the conclusion of the presentation, the judges may ask questions for a maximum of five minutes.

TIME

The timekeeper will record the length of the speech. These times will be reported to the judges. The exact total minutes and seconds must be recorded showing undertime or overtime for which deductions will be made.

Official time does not include the time required for the member's introduction.

The presentations will be a maximum of 5 minutes in length and a minimum of 4 minutes.

The presenters will receive a signal at 4 minutes and at 5 minutes.

A maximum of 5 minutes for questions and answers will be allotted. Questions and answers will terminate at the end of 5 minutes.

For deductions, see time deduction chart.

PRESENTATION LENGTH	POINT DEDUCTION
1:31 - 2:30	-8 points
2:31 - 3:30	-4 points
3:31 - 5:30	No deduction
5:31 - 6:30	-2 points
6:31 - 7:30	-4 points

SCORES

The presentation will be scored on the following criteria.

Verbal Communication: Examples Speaking without hesitation Tone	15 points
Facts: Connecting and articulating facts and issues	15 points
Non-Verbal Communication: Attention (eye contact) Mannerisms Gestures Well-poised	40 points
Questions: Supportive details/facts Being detail-oriented	30 points

Determining Awards

After scoring presentations, each judge will use their total score to rank the individuals numerically without consultation among judges. All judges' rankings for each individual will then be totaled together. The winner will be the individual whose total of rankings is the lowest (low point score method of selection).

District and regional individuals will be rated **gold** or **silver.** State semi-finals individuals will be rated **silver** or **bronze.** State finals individuals will be rated **gold** or **silver.** Determinations should be based on the score break of the performance. The top individual and an alternate will be selected to move on to another contest level.

Placing and awards shall be determined utilizing the Guide to Ranking Teams and General Rules Governing Michigan FFA Leadership Contests.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to these rules, please review the following documents:

- General Rules Governing Michigan FFA Leadership Contests
- Extemporaneous Public Speaking Score Card
- Guide to Ranking Teams
- Extemporaneous Public Speaking Timekeeper Instructions
- Contest Chair Instructions
- Extemporaneous Public Speaking Contest Topics & Sources