

Purpose

The FFA pilot Discussion Meet Leadership Development Event is designed to simulate a committee meeting where discussion and active participation are expected from each participant. This competition is evaluated on an exchange of ideas and information on a pre-determined topic. The purpose of the Discussion Meet leadership development event is to build basic discussion skills, develop a keen understanding of important agricultural issues and explore how groups can pool knowledge to reach consensus and solve problems.

Eligibility

The participants must be an active member of a chartered Florida FFA Chapter and enrolled in grades 9, 10, 11, or 12. Each chapter may enter one contestant.

Event Procedures

The pilot Discussion Meet event is limited to the first 16 registered contestants for the state contest, but limited to one student per chapter. At the state event, after two preliminary rounds, four state finalists will be selected to compete in the final round. One state winner will be selected and the other three participants will be named state finalists. The participants are not ranked second, third or fourth.

FFA members are to wear INDOOR FFA Official Dress, and will be scored accordingly. Recording of presentations is permitted by one person from each participant's chapter for that participant only. The room will be pre-set with tables, chairs, podium and an electronic timer. All participants will be provided pencils and paper to take notes during the discussion meet.

This event will follow the general procedure established for all Florida FFA Career Development Events. Contestants should follow any instructions given by the event superintendent.

The Discussion should follow these steps:

- A. State problem or need
- B. Explore, define, understand problem or need
- C. Identify causes of problem or need
- D. Elaborate all possible alternative solutions
- E. Evaluate and compare alternatives
- F. Test and project what appears to be the best solution
- G. Arrive at ways to implement the solution

Event Schedule

An orientation for all contestants will be conducted prior to the competition. At that time the topics for the event will be selected. Contestants may not bring paper with

notes into the Discussion Meet room. Also, contestants are not allowed to have access to cell phones, smart watches or other communication devices once the competition begins. Blank paper and pencils will be furnished for note taking.

Contestants will discuss the selected topic drawn prior to the competition. Each contestant will give a 30 second opening statement in voluntary order. The timekeeper may stand or otherwise indicate when 30 seconds has elapsed. Judges may subtract points at their discretion for contestants abusing the time limit.

The moderator will then indicate the opportunity for open discussion which will run for a total of 20 minutes. The timekeeper will indicate to the moderator when 20 minutes has elapsed in the contest. The moderator will stop open discussion and call for a minute of quiet time allowing the contestants to construct a final statement. After one minute has elapsed, the moderator will direct the contestants to give their one minute closing statement in voluntary order.

Scoring

Contestants will be judged on each of the following areas:

1. Delivery
2. Problem Solving and Implementation
3. Cooperative Attitude
4. Analysis of Topic or Problem
5. Opening Statement
6. Closing Statement
7. Official Dress

In each area a contestant may receive one of the following scores, with 100 points available in each category and 50 points for Official Dress for a perfect score total of 650:

- Superior – 100
- Excellent – 80
- Good – 60
- Fair – 40
- Poor – 20

The contestant with the highest overall score wins. Consult the following score sheet for more information.

Tie Breakers

Ties will be broken based on the greatest number of low ranks. Participant's low ranks will be counted and the participant with the greatest number of low ranks will be declared the winner.

If a tie still exists, then the LDE superintendent will rank the participant's individual score in the following areas.

1. Problem Solving and Implementation Score
2. Analysis of Topic or Problem

Awards

Awards will be presented during a designated session at the annual State FFA Convention and Expo.

Awards will be presented to the top four individuals at the state finals based upon their rankings. Awards are sponsored by the Florida Farm Bureau Federation.

References

This list of references is not intended to be inclusive. Other sources may be utilized, and teachers are encouraged to make use of the very best instructional materials available. The following list contains references that may prove helpful during event preparation.

- American Farm Bureau Federation – www.fb.org
- Florida Farm Bureau Federation - www.floridafarmbureau.org
- United States Department of Agriculture – www.usda.gov
- Florida Department of Agriculture – www.freshfromflorida.com

<p>In these columns, put the first and last name of the competitors according to where they are sitting from left to right at the competition table.</p>	Comp A Name:	Comp B Name:	Comp C Name:	Comp D Name:	Comp E Name:	Comp F Name:
<p>1. PROBLEM SOLVING AND IMPLEMENTATION: (100 points) Ability and judgment in seeking and solutions, planning and organizational understanding, and the inclusion of FFA in implementing action programs.</p>						
<p>2. ANALYSIS OF TOPIC OR PROBLEM: (100 points) Does the contestant attempt to identify problem causes and remain on topic? Knowledge, extent and accuracy of facts.</p>						
<p>3. COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE: (100 points) Listening, asking pertinent questions, airing all points of view, securing major agreement, minimizing major differences. Courtesy to other participants, encourage discussion from other participants.</p>						
<p>4. DELIVERY: (100 points) Voice quality, loudness, clear enunciation, communication skills, desirable sentence structure and interesting choice of words.</p>						
<p>5. OPENING STATEMENT: (100 points) Definition of problem, importance, causes, effects, relevancy of problem.</p>						
<p>6. CLOSING STATEMENT: (100 points) Ability to summarize discussion and formulate direction for the future.</p>						
<p>7. OFFICIAL DRESS: (50 points) Contestant should be properly dressed in FFA official dress according to the guidelines of the National FFA Organization.</p>						
<p>Total Score for each contestant is to be tabulated by Judge. Any tie scores are to be broken by Judge TOTAL ➡ Total of 650 points possible</p>						
<p>Rank Contestants: 1(highest) – 6 (lowest) RANK ➡</p>						

