

# ORIENTATION FOR JUDGES

**Judges your job is very important. You will evaluate FFA members who have put a lot of hard work, dedication and commitment into preparing for the speaking contest(s) they are participating in. Your job is to select the member(s) who have best prepared themselves and their materials for this competition.**

## *Specific Instructions for Judges:*

1. Review the rules, scorecard, manuscripts, questions, etc. **carefully**. Many times questions you have about a particular contest are spelled out in the printed rules, so make sure to review these thoroughly. Ask your host advisor if you have any clarifications to be made in any of the rules or scoring. If you have questions before the contest, please feel free to contact Cheryl Zimmerman, State FFA Executive Director (715) 659-4807. It is important that you are clear on all the rules and proper scoring.
2. Before the three judges begin a contest, they should briefly discuss the rules and scoring so all are comfortable with the procedures for judging the contest. Each judge will have specific points they look for in the contest, however, each judge should be interpreting the rules and utilizing the scorecard in the same manner. If the judges are unclear of the interpretation of the rules, they should come to a consensus and general understanding of what the rule means.
3. The Stage Presence score includes proper official dress. Proper official dress is defined as...  
**Males:** Official FFA Jacket zipped to the top, black slacks, black socks, black dress shoes, a white collared-shirt with official FFA tie.  
**Females:** Official FFA Jacket zipped to the top, black skirts or pants are acceptable, white-collared blouse with official FFA blue scarf, black dress shoes with a closed heel and toe, black nylon hosiery. The skirt is to be at least knee length, hemmed evenly across the bottom, with a slit no longer than two inches above the knee, excluding the kick pleat. (*Taken from the FFA Official Manual page 10*).
4. Judges have been assigned the duty to make a decision of the individual(s) who will advance to the state competition. **All ties must be broken by the judges.** This is not left up to the host advisor. The host advisor should have no input in the final decision made by the three judges. **THE DECISION AS A JUDGE IS FINAL.** There will be no reversal in the decision that was made by the judges. What judges write on the final results sheet and officially sign is final.

In all speaking contests except Quiz Bowl, the winner is selected by Sum of the Rank. Each judge will rank the contestants 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc. At the end of the contest, the ranks from the three judges will be added up and the winner is the individual with the lowest score. For example, if the three judges ranked an individual 1st, 2nd and 1st, their Sum of the Rank Score would be 4 for that contestant compared to an individual who may have been ranked 2nd, 1st, and 2nd with their final score being 5. The contestant with the score of 4 would be named winner.

You need to select first and second place. These individuals/teams advance to the Section Competition in March. You should rank all other individuals/teams in the competition as well in case either the first or second place could not attend the Section contest. This does happen quite frequently. Contestants also like to know how they placed in the competition.

5. At the end of each contest, please report to the tabulation room so all your materials can be collected. All judges must sign the official results sheet and turn in any questions or materials that were given to them before the contest started.

Thank you to each individual who serves as a judge for these speaking contests. You truly are helping our young people develop into leaders for tomorrow and helping to provide them with skills that will last a lifetime.