

Kansas FFA Discussion Meet Leadership Development Event

Sponsored by Kansas Farm Bureau

Objectives

1. Stimulate logical thinking and a desire for accurate information;
2. Promote a concise and direct manner of speaking;
3. Improve the ability to listen;
4. Aid the participant in overcoming timidity or stage fright;
5. Assist the individual in the practice of giving and receiving criticism in a helpful manner;
6. Teach the value of compromise; and
7. Develop leaders for effective problem solving through group discussion.

Event Rules

1. The Discussion Meet is an individual competition open to all FFA members.
2. Each chapter may send up to five students to compete in the district level competition.
3. All participants will compete in one division.
4. All participants will compete in at least two rounds of competition. Room placement in the second round and beyond will be based on performance in the previous round(s). Additional rounds will be determined by the total number of participants and could include a semi-final and final round. The competition will include no more than four rounds.
5. Competition will take place on the district and state level with the assistance of Kansas Farm Bureau volunteers.
6. Participants must compete in official FFA dress.
7. Participants are not allowed to bring any items or notes to the competition tables.
8. A minimum of three competent and unbiased judges will be provided. They will be instructed not to take sides on the issue(s). Professors and industry representatives are recommended. The superintendent of this LDE will adequately prepare the judges before the event competition.

Event Format

1. **EQUIPMENT & MATERIALS PROVIDED-** Equipment and materials provided by the event superintendent includes: two competitor tables with two to three chairs at each, one writing pad and instrument per participants, microphone (if necessary), and competitor name cards.
2. Each participant will research information regarding the 5 yearly topics published online at www.kfb.org/FFA in July. Recommended research for each topic includes:
 - a. Current standing of the issue(s)
 - b. Background/Causation of the issue(s)
 - c. FFA involvement and policies affecting the issue(s)
 - d. Potential solutions, theories and other resources that may be useful in a solution-focused conversation
3. The first-round discussion topic will be announced to the participants and judges at their respective orientations. Additional round topics will be announced at the end of the preceding round.
4. Participants will report to their assigned competition room 5 minutes prior to the start time and place their name cards at the seat of their choice. Competition rooms will feature 4-6 participants each. If a chapter sends multiple participants, they will be split into different rooms as available to avoid competition against each other in the first round.
5. At the start of the competition, the room chair and moderator will explain the competition to spectators, announce the topic for the round, and introduce participants.
6. In voluntary order, participants will be given 30 seconds each to make an opening statement, directed to the audience, regarding their view of the topic to be discussed. A timekeeper, seated in the front row, will hold up a red card indicating the end of 30 seconds for each participant. The moderator will interrupt the participant if the time allowed is abused.

7. Following the conclusion of the opening statements, the moderator will indicate that discussion may begin. Participants will be expected to start the discussion and keep it moving for the duration of the time allowed. The moderator will not intervene in the discussion unless disparaging or inappropriate remarks are made and/or until the time allowed for discussion has concluded.
8. Groups of four to six participants will be given 15 minutes to discuss the topic. Generally speaking, the discussion should follow these steps:
 - a. Analysis of Topic or Problem:
 - Explore, define and understand the problem or need
 - Identify the causes of the problem or need
 - b. Problem Solving & Implementation:
 - Identify a variety of possible solutions
 - Evaluate and compare solutions
 - Test and project what appears to be the best solution(s)
 - Identify ways FFA members can be involved in the solution
9. A timekeeper will hold up a yellow card when 13 minutes have elapsed and a red card at the end of 15 minutes. The moderator will stop discussion at the end of 15 minutes.
10. The moderator will call for one minute of silence to allow participants time to make notes and prepare their closing statements.
11. In voluntary order, participants will be given one minute each to make a closing statement, directed to the audience. The closing statement should summarize discussion and reiterate next steps. Closing statements are scored based on articulation of accurate information rather than originality. A timekeeper, seated in the front row, will hold up a red card indicating the end of one minute for each participant. The moderator will interrupt the participant if the time allowed is abused.
12. Following the closing statements, the judges will be recognized and asked to leave the room to finalize and submit their rating sheets.
13. Once the judges have left the room, participants will be asked to introduce themselves, describe their involvement in FFA, connection to agriculture and future plans for the audience.
14. The moderator will close the competition and dismiss participants and spectators.

Individual Scoring

1. **Opening Statement** (50 points) Up to 50 points may be awarded for a participant's opening statement. Higher point values will be given to participants who define the problem and show the importance, causes, effects, and relevancy of the problem.
2. **Analysis of Topic or Problem** (150 points) Up to 150 points may be awarded for the participant's ability to explore, define and understand the problem or need and identify its causes. Higher point values will be given for higher level knowledge, accuracy of facts and an ability to stay on topic throughout the discussion.
3. **Problem Solving & Implementation** (200 points) Up to 200 points may be awarded for the participant's ability to identify solutions and judgement in evaluating the possibilities. Higher point values will be given for thinking critically about the plausibility of possible solutions and identifying ways FFA members can be part of the solution.
4. **Cooperative Attitude** (100 points) Up to 100 points may be awarded for the participant's ability to listen, ask pertinent questions, air all points of view, secure major agreement, and minimize major differences. Higher point values will be given for balancing initiative in the conversation with courtesy to other participants and encouraging discussion from all participants.
5. **Closing Statement** (100 points) Up to 100 points may be awarded for a participant's closing statement. Higher point values will be given to participants who demonstrate an ability to summarize discussion of all participants and formulate direction for the future.
6. **Delivery** (100 points) Up to 100 points may be awarded for the participant's voice quality, loudness, clear enunciation, desirable sentence structure, interesting choice of words, professional appearance and poise.
7. Judges will total the points for each participant and provide an individual rank of participants to be combined with the other judges in their room.
8. In addition to point values and an overall ranking, participants will also be ranked in the individual categories of Problem Solving & Implementation, Analysis of Topic or Problem, and Cooperative Attitude to aid in the event of an overall tie.
9. No participants' scores or rankings may be tied across the score sheet in any of the above categories or in the overall points and rankings row.
10. Each participant's rank from all judges in the room will be added to determine the results. The lowest combined ranking is the highest placing individual.

Tiebreakers

Should the combined ranking of any participants result in a tie, a series of tiebreakers is available.

1. Tie Breaker #1: Individual judges' rankings of the Problem Solving & Implementation category for the tied participants will be combined. If one score is lower than the other, the lower score wins. If the score is tied again, move to the next tie breaker.
2. Tie Breaker #2: Individual judges' rankings of the Analysis of Topic category for the tied participants will be combined. If one score is lower than the other, the lower score wins. If the score is tied again, move to the next tie breaker.
3. Tie Breaker #3: Individual judges' rankings of the Cooperative Attitude category for the tied participants will be combined. If one score is lower than the other, the lower score wins. If the score is tied again, move to the next tie breaker.
4. Tie Breaker #4: Total points from the individual judges' score sheets will be combined for the tied participants. If one score is higher than the other, the higher score wins.

Chapter Scoring

Chapters with two or more participants will be given scores based on the average performance of individual members from their chapter. Individuals are ranked after each round and will be given points which correspond with their ranking as follows:

- 1st = 10 points
- 2nd = 8 points
- 3rd = 6 points
- 4th = 4 points
- 5th = 2 points
- 6th = 1 point

Individuals can gain points in all rounds in which they compete. After all a chapter's individual points are added together, they will be divided by the total number of times individuals from the chapter competed in the Discussion Meet, creating a chapter average. The highest average score represents the best overall chapter performance.

Recognition

Recognition for outstanding performance will be given as follows:

District Level:

- Top 10 individuals receive medals at the district competition
- Top 2 individuals from each district will advance to the state competition.
- Top 3 chapters* receive certificates and a cash award of \$300 for first, \$200 for second, and \$100 for third. Checks will be distributed to the county Farm Bureau where schools are located to be awarded locally.

State Level:

- Top 4 Individuals receive plaques during a general session at the State FFA Convention.

**Only chapters with two or more participants are eligible for chapter awards.*