**DISCUSSION MEET**

**GENERAL SCRIPT**

Responsibilities for Moderator & Timekeeper prior to each round:

1. Assure room is set properly
2. Assure timer has stop watch
3. Confirm pronunciation of names
4. Competitors should remain seated in the audience until recognized (name cards may be placed on the table 5 minutes prior to round beginning)
5. Control flow of traffic into and out of the room

**Moderator:**

Welcome to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ FFA Discussion Meet, hosted by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County Farm Bureau. I am \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and I will be serving as moderator for this round. At this time, out of respect for all of the competitors, please turn off your cell phones and all other electronic devices. Also, please keep distractions as minimal as possible to allow for full concentration by the competitors. In the event of continual distractions, it may be necessary to ask you to leave.

*MODERATOR PAUSES*

Serving as timekeeper for this round is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A mock discussion meet allows competitors to practice their skills in preparation for a district or state-level competition. Competitors will be evaluated and provided feedback about their performance today. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County Farm Bureau will also provide prizes to the top participants in today’s meet.

The judges, timekeeper, and competitors have been briefed as to the rules of the competition. We appreciate all of you taking the time to attend this competition. Your support is appreciated by the competitors. Competitors please come and take your places up front.

PAUSE UNTIL ALL COMPETITORS HAVE TAKEN THEIR SEATS

Now that all competitors have been seated, writing is allowed. The competitors will direct their general discussion toward each other, rather than the audience. In my role as moderator, I will not attempt to control or direct this discussion. Remember, the discussion is meant to resemble a committee meeting, with the end goal of determining possible solutions to the question at hand. This is not a panel discussion with point/counterpoint and an active moderator. As such, I will not intervene unless disparaging or inappropriate remarks are made. With that in mind, the burden is on the competitors to “moderate” themselves and conduct themselves in a cooperative and congenial manner.

The question for this round is: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The competitors for this round are:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 (***know how to pronounce names and do not identify chapters***)

We will begin this discussion with 30-second opening statements from each competitor. Following the opening statements will be 15 minutes of open discussion, followed by one minute of quiet time for the competitors to prepare their one-minute closing statements. Official time will be kept by the timekeeper.

Competitors, in voluntary order, make your 30-second opening statements. Please stand and direct your opening statements to the audience. The timer will indicate when your 30 seconds have elapsed by holding up a red card. You may begin.

*OPENING STATEMENTS GIVEN; TIMER SIGNALS MODERATOR TIME EXPIRED FOR EACH –* ***RED CARD***

You have heard the opening statements. The competitors may now proceed with the discussion. Competitors, please direct your discussion to your fellow panel members.

*AT 10 MINUTES TIMER SIGNALS MODERATOR 5 MINUTE WARNING –* ***YELLOW CARD***

*-and-*

*MODERATOR SIGNALS COMPETITORS 5 MINUTES REMAINING –* ***YELLOW TABLE TENT***

*(If Moderator ends discussion, say “I am invoking moderator privilege and ending open discussion.”)*

*AT 15 MINUTES TIMER SIGNALS MODERATOR TIME EXPIRED –* ***RED CARD***

Time has been called. Please prepare your closing statements. I ask that the audience remain silent for one minute to aid the competitors in their preparation.

*ONE MINUTE PREPARTION TIME; TIMER SIGNALS MODERATOR TIME EXPIRED –* ***RED CARD***

Please put down your pencils, and in voluntary order please stand and give your one-minute closing statement.

*CLOSING STATEMENTS GIVEN; TIMER SIGNALS MODERATOR TIME EXPIRED FOR EACH –* ***RED CARD***

Let’s show these competitors our appreciation for a job well done.

*MODERATOR PAUSES FOR APPLAUSE*

The judges for today’s competition are:

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (names only)
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Now I would ask the judges to report with the timekeeper to room \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Thank you to our judges and timekeeper. We appreciate your help this afternoon.

*PAUSE AS JUDGES EXIT*

We would now like each competitor to make a brief statement about themselves, their FFA experience, and their connection to agriculture.

*PAUSE FOR PERSONAL STATEMENTS*

Thank you, competitors. Your scores in this round will determine your placement for the next round and room assignments will posted outside room \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m.

The question for the second round is: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Competitors take your name cards with you. Thank you all for being such a good audience. We appreciate your interest in the competition and your support of the competitors. The next round will begin in each of the competition rooms held at approximately \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m.