

SOIL STEWARDSHIP PUBLIC SPEAKING

State Convention

1. FFA members must choose a topic relating to soil stewardship. Concepts or topics for contestants must be in accordance with the theme selected by the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts for the corresponding year. The title of the speech may be different than the established theme as long as the content of the speech appropriately addresses the theme. The outline for speech development, as provided by the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, is for guidance only. Addressing all elements contained in the outline is not required.
2. Each speech shall be no less than six (6) nor more than eight (8) minutes with five (5) minutes additional time allowed for related questions, which shall be asked by the judges. Contestants will be penalized one point per second on each judge's score sheet for being more than eight (8) minutes or less than six (6) minutes. Time commences when the contestant begins speaking. Contestants may use a wristwatch only to keep record of time.
3. Rules of the National FFA Organization's prepared speaking career development event will be followed as they apply.
4. Manuscripts must be submitted according to the following:
 - a. Nine (9) copies submitted;
 - b. Typewritten on 8 ½" X 11" white paper;
 - c. Cover page included which includes the theme, speech title, participants name, chapter area, name of speaking event and date;
 - d. 1" margins on all sides;
 - e. 10-12 point Times New Roman font;
 - f. Follow APA style manual for manuscript composition and format and for developing and citing references and bibliography; and
 - g. Bound only by staple in the upper left corner.
5. Manuscripts shall be scored for content and composition by qualified judges separate from those selected to judge the presentation at the state event. Manuscript scores will be averaged and supplied to the presentation judges after the oral presentation has been scored.
6. To be eligible for district competition, the contestant must have presented the speech to the local chapter. To be eligible for area competition, the contestant must have presented the speech to a school or community group and competed at the district level.
7. **Entry must be made to the Texas FFA Association by June 1. Failure to submit a complete entry shall result in a \$25.00 entry processing fee. A complete entry shall consist of the following:**
 - a. Entry made by June 1
 - b. Entry form completed online
 - c. \$30.00 entry fee;
 - d. One (1) official transcript reflecting enrollment in an agricultural science course for the current school year.
 - e. Nine (9) copies of the manuscript bound only by a staple in the upper left corner and adhering to format requirements;
 - f. Bibliography affixed to each copy of the manuscript; and
 - g. Statement of originality affixed to each copy of the manuscript.
 - h. SWCD consultation affidavit affixed to each copy of the manuscript
8. Plaques will be awarded for first and second place winners at the district, area levels. The state winner will receive a \$1,000. Each area winner will also receive a \$500 scholarship.