

Opening and Closing Ceremonies

Junior+Senior Division

FFA

Overview

Revised:11/24

Purpose

The Opening and Closing Ceremony LDE is designed to develop agricultural leadership by providing members participation in public speaking activities and stimulating interest in leadership and citizenship.

Eligibility

The participant must be an active member of a chartered Delaware FFA Chapter. If participating in the high school event you must be identified as a current officer. If in middle school the team can be the chapter's officer team, or a group of members as selected by the chapter.

Event Procedure

A. Team make-up: Each team must consist of the six (6) constitutional FFA officers. If the chapter has a Junior advisor they will present the Advisor part, if not a state officer will read the advisor part. It will not count for or against your team total to provide consistency.

B. The team must be registered through the State FFA Office using the Judging Card Platform.

(Middle School: State Convention Registration Form; High School: COLT Registration Form)

C. All participants must be in official FFA dress for this event. The judges will use the official Delaware FFA Official Dress Scoring Rubric on page 6 of this manual for each team member.

D. The order of appearances will be at random. For middle school, the appearances will be determined ahead of time by state staff. For high school, a drawing of the chapter names will be done with the first chapter picked being the first to compete, etc.

E. Teams will not be allowed to observe other demonstrations.

F. The team's advisor(s) may not be present during the live presentation but expected to escort the team to event.

G. Any participant in possession of an electronic device in the event area is subject to disqualification.

Event Format

A. Setup:

1. The room will be set up as outlined in the Official FFA Manual (see attached).
2. Middle School: the room will already be set up with station markers at their respective positions.
3. High School: The Sentinel of each FFA Chapter shall set up and take down the paraphernalia.
4. The President's station shall have a podium. There will be chairs for the other officer's stations.
5. Each team shall have its officers present at the start of the CDE or subject to disqualification.

B. Demonstration: After each officer is at their proper station, opening ceremonies should be performed. The student should recite their part from memory.

1. The team will perform:

- A. Opening Ceremonies
- B. Knowledge Based Officer Questions
- C. Closing Ceremonies

2. No other business transactions should be presented.

After the last tap of the gavel, the team should exit the meeting room.

3. The Sentinel shall take down the paraphernalia after the presentation

EVENT MATERIALS

MATERIALS PROVIDED:

- Gavel (teams may use their own gavel if they so desire)
- Officer station markers - Each Team will use the state paraphernalia provided.

Knowledge Based Questions for INDIVIDUAL Team Members

TEAM QUESTIONS

Each student on the team will answer one question between the presentation of the opening ceremony and presentation of the closing ceremony.

The questions will be based on selected chapters of the Official FFA Manual as listed below:

■ State Event: Chapter Officers, Chapter Meetings, and Program of Activities

■ Six Questions are to be generated by the Opening and Closing Ceremony Judges, the morning of the event, using the Official FFA Manual. The same “six” questions should be used for all participating teams.

- Two questions from each of the following:
 - Chapter Officers
 - Chapter Meetings
 - Program of Activities

■ Each officer position, on every team, will receive the same question.

AWARDS

Awards will be presented by the event host at Delaware FFA Chapter Officer Leadership Training and State finals awards will be presented during a designated session at the annual State FFA Convention.

REFERENCES

- Official FFA Manual

Official FFA Opening and Closing Ceremonies Script

Opening the Meeting

(All take seats at one tap of the gavel. Two taps of gavel begins meeting.)

President: "The meeting room will come to order. We are now holding a meeting of the _____ FFA Chapter. Mr./Mdm. Vice President, are all officers at their stations?"

Vice President: (Rising and facing the president) "I shall call the roll of officers, determine if they are at their stations and report back to you, Mr./Mdm. President."

Vice President: "The sentinel."

Sentinel: "Stationed by the door."

Vice President: "Your duties there?"

Sentinel: "Through this door pass many friends of the FFA. It is my duty to see that the door is open to our friends at all times and that they are welcome. I care for the meeting room and paraphernalia. I strive to keep the room comfortable and assist the president in maintaining order."

Vice President: "The reporter."

Reporter: "The reporter is stationed by the flag."

Vice President: "Why by the flag?"

Reporter: "As the flag covers the United States of America, so I strive to inform the people in order that every man woman and child may know that the FFA is a national organization that reaches from the state of Alaska to the Virgin Islands and from the state of Maine to Hawaii."

Vice President: "The treasurer."

Treasurer: "Stationed at the emblem of Washington."

Vice President: "Your duties there?"

Treasurer: I keep a record of receipts and disbursements just as Washington kept his farm accounts -- carefully and accurately. I encourage thrift among the members and strive to build up our financial standing through savings and investments. George Washington was better able to serve his country because he was financially independent.

Vice President: "The secretary."

Secretary: "Stationed by the ear of corn."

Vice President: "Your duties there."

Secretary: "I keep an accurate record of all meetings and correspond with other secretaries wherever corn is grown and FFA members meet."

Vice President: "The Advisor"

Advisor: "Here by the owl"

Vice President: "Why by the owl?"

Advisor: "The owl is a time honored emblem of knowledge and wisdom. Being older than the rest of you, I am asked to advise you from time to time as the need arises. I hope that my advice will always be based on true knowledge and ripened with wisdom."

"Mr./Mdm. Vice President, why do you keep a plow at your station?"

Vice President: "The plow is the symbol of labor and tillage of the soil. Without labor, neither knowledge nor wisdom can accomplish much. My duties require me to assist at all times in directing the work of our organization. I preside over meetings in the absence of our president, whose place is beneath the rising sun."

Advisor: "Why is the president so stationed?"

Vice President: "The rising sun is the token of a new era in agriculture. If we will follow the leadership of our president, we shall be led out of the darkness of selfishness and into the glorious sunlight of brotherhood and cooperation. Mr./Mdm. President, all officers are at their stations."

President: (Rises and faces the vice president) "Thank you, Mr./Mdm. Vice President." **(All take seats at tap of gavel.)** "The secretary will call the roll of members."

Secretary: "There are numerous members and guests present, Mr./Mdm. President."

President: "Thank you. FFA members, why are we here." **(All members stand at 3 taps of gavel.)**

All members in unison: "To practice brotherhood, honor agricultural opportunities and responsibilities, and develop those qualities of leadership which an FFA member should possess." **(All are seated at 1 tap of gavel.)**

President: "May we accomplish our purposes. I now declare this meeting of the (chapter, district, etc.) FFA (Chapter, District, etc.) duly opened for the transaction of business, or attention to any matters which may properly be presented."

President: * Madam / Mr. Secretary, what is the first item of business?

**** Secretary: Our 1st item of business is Knowledge Based Questions from our Judges**

***** Meeting turned over to judges to ask questions.**

****** When the final question is asked, judges will acknowledge " this is our final question".**

President: "Mr./Madam. Secretary, do you have a record of any further business which should now be transacted?"

Secretary: (Rises, replies and is seated.) "I have none, Mr./Mdm. President."

President: "Does any member know of any new or unfinished business which should properly come before this meeting?"

"We are about to adjourn this meeting of the _____ FFA Chapter. As we mingle with others, let us be diligent in labor, just in our dealings, courteous to everyone, and, above all, honest and fair in the game of life. Fellow members and guests, join me in a salute to our flag."

(Taps three times with the gavel to call all members to stand, face the flag, at the reporter's station and with their right hand over their hearts, repeat the following pledge.)

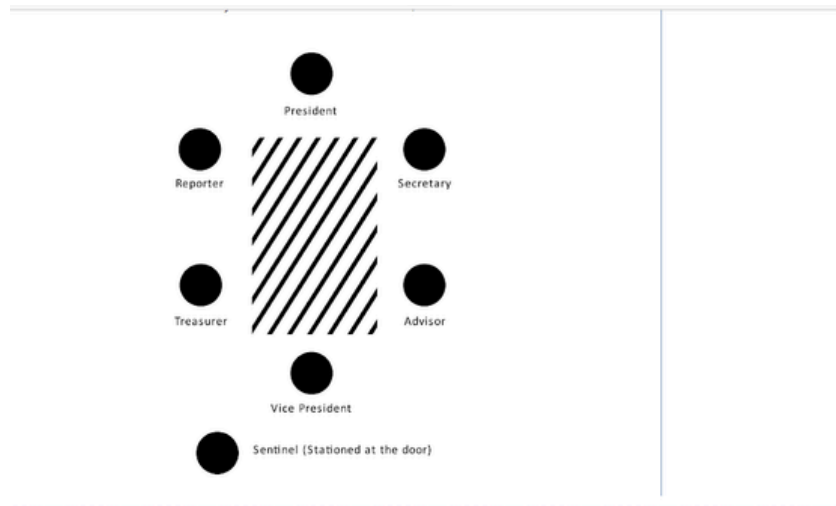
All in unison: "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

President: "I now declare this meeting adjourned."**(One tap of the gavel)**

Scoring Materials:

				Little/No Value	Below Expectations	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations	Judged Score	
(5 POINT DEDUCTION PER WORD MISSED)									
Points Possible: 300									
1.	President			0-10	11-25	26-40	41-50		
2.	Vice President			0-10	11-25	26-40	41-50		
3.	Secretary			0-10	11-25	26-40	41-50		
4.	Treasurer			0-10	11-25	26-40	41-50		
5.	Reporter			0-10	11-25	26-40	41-50		
6.	Sentinel			0-10	11-25	26-40	41-50		
7.	Appearance and Style of Team Delivery			0-7	8-14	15-23	24-35		
8.	Voice and Inflection of Team			0-10	11-25	26-40	41-50		
9.	Poise of Presiding Officer			0-5	6-10	11-20	21-25		
10.	Proper Facilitation of Meeting by President (Gavel Taps)			0-12	13-23	24-32	33-40		
11.	Proper Sitting and Standing of Officers (-5 points for each officer error)			0-5	10	15	20		
12.	Questions (10 points each)	PR	VP	SC	TR	RE	SE	AD	
13.	Room Setup Paraphernalia 10 points per station marker 5 points set up, 5 points taken down	PR	VP	SC	TR	RE	SE	AD	
14.	Official Dress Deductions Use DE FFA Official Dress Rubric for Penalty	PR	VP	SC	TR	RE	SE		
PRESENTATION TOTAL SCORE Possible Total: 600									
Minus and OD Deductions =									

Room Setup:



****The President should be stationed at the designated podium. **Sentinel location may vary depending upon which door the chapter enters through.**

President Gavel Taps For President Officiating

President Score Card	
<p>Proper gavel usage before opening statement (1 tap, then 2) 3 points each correct tap</p>	<p>/9 points</p>
<p>2. Backs away from the podium while the Vice-President calls the roll of officers.</p>	<p>/5 points</p>
<p>3. Taps gavel to seat officers upon opening ceremonies (1 tap)</p>	<p>/3points</p>
<p>4. Proper taps of gavel: to bring chapter to standing at the end of "FFA Mem-bers, Why are we here" (3 taps) 3 points each tap</p>	<p>/9 points</p>
<p>5. Proper taps of gavel: To seat group after "FFA members, why are we here" has been recited (1 tap)</p>	<p>/3 points</p>
<p>6. To bring chapter to standing at the end of "Fellow members and guests, join me in a salute to our flag" (3 taps)</p>	<p>/9 points</p>
<p>7. Taps gavel to end the meeting (1 tap)</p>	<p>/2 points</p>

Total points possible: 40 points

Delaware Official Dress Rubric

Official Dress Scoring Rubric		Member:
For all members		Chapter
Garment Description	Points Possible	
FFA Jacket - zipped to the top - Deduct 5 points if unwilling to zip to top Note: Points will not be deducted in cases where FFA jacket was unavailable (new members, middle school members, etc.) and all other official dress criteria is followed.	15 points	
White Collared Shirt or Blouse Deduct 5 points if shirt is not solid white or has no collar	10 points	
Black Skirt or Pants - Deduct 5 points if skirt is more than 2 inches above the knee - Deduct 5 points if fabric has tears or is patterned	10 points	
Black Dress Shoes or boot - closed toe & closed heel - Deduct 5 points for an open toe and/ or an open heel or ornamentation on shoe	10 points	
Black Socks or Hosiery Note: Students will not be asked to reveal garments that are not otherwise visible. If socks are completely covered by pants and shoes, full points will be given.	3 points	
FFA Scarf or Tie - Official Navy Blue Note: Solid navy or black tie is acceptable when official FFA tie is not yet available.	2 points	
	100 points possible	Points