



Georgia FFA Association

Discussion Meet CDE

I. OVERVIEW

The Discussion Meet is patterned after the National Farm Bureau Young Farmer Discussion Meet. Students discuss topics in a way that leads to constructive ideas and problem solving.

II. PURPOSE

The Discussion Meet Career Development Event is designed to teach the three fundamental bases of discussion: constructive criticism, cooperation and communication. The role of the contestants is to exchange ideas and information in order to solve a problem.

III. ELIGIBILITY

This event is open to students in grades 9-12 who are agricultural education students, and are paid members of a chartered FFA chapter. Each student's name must appear on the chapter's FFA roster at least 10 days prior to competition above the chapter level.

IV. SPECIAL NEEDS REQUEST

To report any special needs or request special services for a student to compete in a Career Development Event or FFA Award area (Area or State level), it is the responsibility of the FFA advisor to provide a detailed and specific request and explanation in writing. Requests should include written documentation from the school system verifying the IEP and need being requested. Written requests must be submitted to the CDE Superintendent prior to registering for the CDE/event (at least 3 weeks prior to the date of competition).

V. RULES

1. The Discussion Meet event is limited to one student per chapter at the Area level, and two students per Area on the state level. At the Area event, the top two participants will be named Area finalists and advance to the state CDE. These students will not be ranked first and second. At the state event, after two preliminary rounds, four state finalists will be selected to compete in the final round. One state winner will be selected and the other three participants will be named state finalists. The participants are not ranked second, third or fourth.
2. This event will follow the general procedure established for all Georgia FFA Career Development Events.
3. It is highly recommended that contestants be in official dress as outlined in the Official FFA Manual.
4. Contestants should follow any instructions given by the event superintendent.
5. The State FFA Executive Committee and their appointees will be in charge of this event.
6. The Discussion should follow these steps:
 - A. State problem or need
 - B. Explore, define, understand problem or need
 - C. Identify causes of problem or need
 - D. Elaborate all possible alternative solutions
 - E. Evaluate and compare alternatives
 - F. Test and project what appears to be the best solution
 - G. Arrive at ways to implement the solution



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VI. EVENT FORMAT

1. An orientation for all contestants will be conducted prior to the competition. At that time the topics for the event will be selected. Contestants may not bring paper with notes into the Discussion Meet room. Blank paper and pencils will be furnished for note taking.
2. Contestants will discuss the selected topic drawn prior to the competition. Each contestant will give a 30 second opening statement in voluntary order. The timekeeper may stand or otherwise indicate when 30 seconds has elapsed. Judges may subtract points at their discretion for contestants abusing the time limit.
3. The moderator will then indicate the opportunity for open discussion which will run for a total of 20 minutes in preliminary contests, 20 minutes in the finals contest.
4. The timekeeper will indicate to the moderator when 20 minutes has elapsed in the preliminary contests and when 20 minutes has elapsed in the finals contest.
5. The moderator will stop open discussion and call for a minute of quiet time allowing the contestants to construct a final statement.
6. The moderator will call upon the contestants in voluntary order to give a one-minute closing statement.

VII. SCORING

Contestants will be judged on each of the following areas:

1. Delivery
2. Problem Solving and Implementation
3. Cooperative Attitude
4. Analysis of Topic or Problem
5. Opening Statement
6. Closing Statement

In each area a contestant may receive one of the following scores, with 100 points available in each category for a perfect score total of 600:

- Superior – 100
- Excellent – 80
- Good – 60
- Fair – 40
- Poor – 20

The contestant with the highest overall score wins. Consult the following score sheet for more information.

VIII. TIE BREAKERS

1. Problem Solving and Implementation Score
2. Analysis of Topic or Problem Solving

IX. AWARDS

Awards shall be determined each year by the Georgia Farm Bureau Federation in cooperation with the Georgia FFA Foundation. This event is made possible through the Georgia FFA Foundation as a special project of the Georgia Farm Bureau Federation.

X. REFERENCES

"Farm Facts" – American Farm Bureau



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Discussion Meet Rating Sheet

Participants' Names
(Left of Moderator)

Participants' Names
(Right of Moderator)

			Total of 600 points possible.	Superior - 100 Excellent - 80 Good - 60 Fair - 40 Poor - 20		
			(1) DELIVERY: (100 points) Voice quality, loudness, clear enunciation, communication skills, desirable sentence structure, interesting choice of words.			
			(2) PROBLEM SOLVING AND IMPLEMENTATION: (100 points) Ability and judgment in seeking answers and solutions, planning and organizational understanding.			
			(3) COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE: (100 points) A. Listening, asking pertinent questions, airing all points of view, securing major agreement, minimizing major differences. B. Courtesy to other participants, encourage discussion from other participants.			
			(4) ANALYSIS OF TOPIC OR PROBLEM: (100 points) Does Competitor attempt to identify problem causes and remain on topic? Knowledge, extent and accuracy of facts.			
			(5) OPENING STATEMENT: (100 points) Definition of problem, importance, causes, effects, relevancy of problem.			
			(6) CLOSING STATEMENT: (100 points) Ability to summarize discussion and formulate direction for the future.			
			⑤ TOTAL Total score for each Competitor is to be tabulated by Judge. Any tie scores are to be broken by Judge.			
			⑤ RANK Rank Competitors: 1(highest) – 6(lowest)			

SIGNED: _____ (Judge)

SIGNED: _____ (Room Chairman)