

***DISCUSSION MEET  
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EVENT***

***RULES AND REGULATIONS  
INDIVIDUAL CONTEST***



***ALABAMA FFA ASSOCIATION***

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**Alabama State Department of Education, Eric Mackey, Ed.D., State Superintendent of Education**

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## **Discussion Meet Leadership Development Event**

### **PURPOSE:**

This competition simulates a committee meeting where discussion and active participation are expected from participants. The competitors discuss pre-selected topics, and the participants receive the topics in advance. The four bases of general discussion are cooperation, constructive criticism, problem solving and communication.

### **DISTRICT-ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIRMENTS:**

Each **county** may submit **up to four** FFA members that meet the following criteria. If more than four students from a county wish to compete then a county contest must be held and the top four individuals may compete in the district contest. This contest must be held prior to the sign up deadline for the district contest.

- Each student's name must appear on the chapter's FFA roster at least 10 days prior to competition above the chapter level.

### **STATE- ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIRMENTS:**

Each district (North, Central, and South) may submit the top four individuals from their respective district contests for the state contest.

### **DISTRICT AND STATE AWARDS/SPONSOR**

Refer to the Contest and Awards Booklet located at [www.alabamaffa.org](http://www.alabamaffa.org).

### **RESOURCES**

<https://alfafarmers.org/federation/young-farmers/>

<https://www.fb.org/programs/young-farmers-and-ranchers/competitive-events>

## **EVENT GENERAL RULES**

- All contestants must be in FFA official dress to participate.
- Contestants may not bring any items or prepared notes with them to their contest round.
- Contestants may not watch a round of other students until they have competed in their round. This only applies to round 1 as during the final round students are not allowed to watch until they have been eliminated.
- Cell phones, smart watches, or any type of communication device(s) are not allowed at any time. Contestants may not use a device to study when they are waiting on their round. If a device is seen or heard by the committee then the student will be disqualified. Written material may be used to prepare before an individual's round.
- Contestants are not allowed to communicate with anyone (parents, teacher, other contestants) during the time that they are waiting on their round.
- Judges rulings are final. Every attempt will be made to give each student feedback as well as scores.
- Contest officials may change any part of the structure of the contest as needed and as applicable out of necessity. If any changes are made teachers will be notified before the contest starts.
- Names of competitors for the district event are due on March 1<sup>st</sup> annually to your district specialist. No late entries will be allowed to compete. If a student drops out of the contest after the registration deadline, no other will be substituted.
- An orientation for all contestants will be conducted prior to the competition. At that time the topics for the event will be selected from the list of five topics that have previously sent out to competitors.
- The topics for the state and district rounds will be selected by the Alabama Farmers Federation State Young Farmers Committee, state staff, and/or contest officials, and will be sent to competitors at minimum two weeks before the contest.
- The moderator has the ability to call time early if there are multiple periods that discussion has stopped or it is obvious that the contestants are struggling to keep the conversation going.

## Contest Layout

- Each contestant will be provided with a pen, blank paper, and a nameplate for each round.
- 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.
- The moderator will then indicate the opportunity for open discussion which will run for a total of 15 minutes in preliminary contests, 20 minutes in the finals contest.
- The timekeeper will indicate to the moderator when 15 minutes has elapsed in the preliminary contests and when 20 minutes has elapsed in the finals contest. The timekeeper will also indicate when five minutes are left in the discussion.
- The moderator will stop open discussion and call for a minute of quiet time allowing the contestants to construct a final statement.
- Each contestant will give a one minute closing statement in voluntary order.

### **Round 1 (same structure will be used if more rounds are needed)**

Contestants will be randomly divided into groups of up to six if the number of contestants allow. Contestants will not be in the same group as another individual from their chapter.

Contestants that are awaiting their competition round, will all be held in the same holding area.

All groups will be asked the same topic that comes from the topic choices.

### **Final Round**

The top FOUR from the preliminary rounds will move on to the final round. This will be chosen by the judges and is not limited to a choice from each group.

The topic will be one of the remaining choices left from the topic list.

Judges will place 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> place.

### **TIE BREAKERS**

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

## Discussion Meet Rating Sheet

**Participants' Names**  
(Left of Moderator)

**Participants' Names**  
(Right of Moderator)

			<p>_____</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Do Not Leave Any Tie Scores or Ranks</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Total of 700 points possible.</p>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>(1) <b>COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE: (200 points)</b>                      A. Listening, asking pertinent questions, airing all points of view, securing major agreement, minimizing major differences. (100 points)                      B. Courtesy to other participants, encourage discussion from other participants. (100 points)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>(2) <b>PROBLEM SOLVING AND IMPLEMENTATION: (100 points)</b>                      Ability and judgment in seeking answers and solutions, planning and organizational understanding implementing action programs.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>(3) <b>DELIVERY: (100 points)</b>                      Voice quality, loudness, clear enunciation, communication skills, desirable sentence structure interesting choice of words.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<p>(4) <b>ANALYSIS OF TOPIC OR PROBLEM: (100 points)</b>                      Does competitor attempt to identify problem causes and remain on topic?                      Knowledge, extent and accuracy of facts.</p>			
			<p>(5) <b>OPENING STATEMENT: (100 points)</b>                      Definition of problem, importance, causes, effects, relevancy of problem.</p>			
			<p>(6) <b>CLOSING STATEMENT: (100 points)</b>                      Ability to summarize discussion and formulate direction for the future.</p>			
			<p>Total score for each Competitor is to be tabulated by Judge.</p>			
			<p><b>← TOTAL</b>      Any tie scores are to be broken by Judge.      <b>TOTAL →</b></p>			
			<p><b>← RANK</b>      Rank Competitors: 1(highest) – 4(lowest)      <b>RANK →</b></p>			

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Room Chairman)

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Judge)

