

# **Persuasive Essay**

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## **Description**

FFA members will demonstrate their knowledge and written communication skills through the development of an essay. The rules below are for the state contest and all districts that want to follow state guidelines. Districts have the option of following the state rules or remaining with the “old” format. If the old format is chosen please contact the state for the six essay topics to be posted the night of District Convention.

## **Objectives**

Students will be able to:

1. Creatively write manuscripts expressing their point of view on current agriculture issues.
2. Use grammar, spelling, and writing skills properly
3. Use current technology to research and type composition
4. Use APA format to create the essay and a basic work cited page

## **Preparation Suggestions**

1. Make extensive use of the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) which can be found at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>
2. Research current agriculture issues. The research time provided at contest time will not be nearly enough to be able to successfully write on a topic.
3. Understand what makes a “credible source”. Judges will be very interested in where specific facts and figures have come from and if they have real merit.

## **Guidelines**

1. Each chapter will be allowed one entry at the district contest with the winner advancing to state competition. This is a priority CDE with all participants needing to show up at announced start time.
2. The Essay CDE will be held in a computer lab with supervisors to monitor computer use. All participating members will be writing on the same agriculture topic that will be posted after participants are in the lab. The topic will be in the form of a question. Participants may chose to support either side.
3. Participants will have thirty minutes to do internet research on the topic and will be allowed to take HANDWRITTEN notes (paper will be provided). Any use of copy/paste into a word

document will result in instant disqualification (only the internet is allowed during the first thirty minutes). These notes should include information to compose a Work Cited page (3 to 5 sources cited) to be prepared in APA format.

4. At the end of the thirty minute internet time, the internet will be closed and Microsoft Word will be opened to type the essay (during this time anyone found opening the internet will be instantly disqualified). Participants will have one hour to compose Cover page that will include Essay Title, FFA member's Name, Chapter Name, and Date, a 1.5 to 2 page Persuasive Essay, plus a Work Cited page on the topic. The handwritten notes from the research time can be used during this time.
5. The essay will be typed in Times New Roman, 12 font size, and double spaced. Margins will be the standard 1" on sides and top and bottom. Spell check, and thesaurus will be allowed during the composition of the essay.
6. At the end of the time, participants will print 3 copies of their cover page, essay and work cited page, staple each copy, and present them to the supervising judge. The final printed essay should include:
  - a. Cover Page (1 page)- Essay Title, Name, Chapter, Date
  - b. Essay (2 pages)
  - c. Work Cited (1 page)
  - d. Handwritten notes (attached to top copy)

## INDIANA FFA PERSUASIVE ESSAY

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CHAPTER: \_\_\_\_\_

	Possible Points	Points	Comments
Introduction	10		
Thesis Statement	10		
Creativity	20		
Logical Development of Argument	25		
Conclusion	10		
Correct Grammar	10		
Works Cited Page	10		
Cover Page/Handwritten Notes	5		
<b>Gross Total Points:</b>	<b>100</b>		
Less Length Deduction-Under 1.5 or over 2 pages	-20		
Failure to Follow Internet Rules <b>DISQUALIFICATION</b>	DQ		
<b>Net Total Points:</b>			
Participant Ranking:			