



## Optional Activity 2.1.5 What Does It Mean?

### Purpose

A creed is a written statement of beliefs. The National FFA Organization adopted the FFA Creed at the 3<sup>rd</sup> National FFA Convention. The creed states the beliefs FFA members hold about the importance of agriculture in their lives and in the future of the United States of America. Thousands of FFA members have learned and recited the FFA Creed, possibly even someone you know.

The FFA Creed has different meaning to different people. Some who grew up on a farm find the meaning to be based in production agriculture. Others see the business and leadership focus and build on that. Just what does the creed mean to you?

### Materials

#### Per class:

Scissors  
Glue stick  
Assorted markers  
Construction paper

#### Per student:

*FFA Student Handbook*  
Poster board  
Computer with word processing software  
Pencil  
*Agriscience Notebook*  
*Generic Presentation Rubric*

### Procedure

In this activity, you will work to determine what the FFA Creed means to you. You will use multiple forms of communication including reading, writing, listening, speaking, creative designing, and visual aids. Each creed paragraph will be examined to find out the meaning. The final step is to present your discovery in the form of a class presentation using effective presentation skills.

1. Your teacher will read the FFA Creed to you. Listen carefully to the words and think about what each sentence means.
2. Review the FFA Creed from the *FFA Student Handbook*.
3. Determine and record important creed vocabulary words for each paragraph in Table 1 of the student worksheet. Find and record the definition of each word.
4. Focus on the important words in each paragraph and prepare four questions for each paragraph about the meaning of the creed. Record your questions in Table 2.
5. Make a list of relatives, friends, neighbors, people you know that were or are currently involved in the agriculture industry. These people may be possible sources for discovering the meaning of the FFA Creed. Record the names in Table 3.
6. Use the questions developed in Step 4 (recorded in Table 2) to interview various people about their interpretations each paragraph. Record these interpretations in Table 4.
7. Prepare a short presentation. Organize your written reflections and the illustrated poster you designed to share with your classmates.
8. Present your findings using the characteristics of good speakers. Your presentation should be about 3-5 minutes in length.

### Conclusion

1. What is the purpose of a creed?

2. How does the text of the FFA Creed reflect the history of agriculture?
  
3. How does the FFA Creed highlight the significance of agriculture?
  
4. Why is it important for the National FFA Organization to have a creed?
  
5. What type of speech is the FFA Creed? Give one reason to support your answer?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Activity 2.1.5 Student Worksheet

**Table 1. Creed Terminology**

<b>Paragraph One Terms</b>	<b>Definitions</b>
1. Faith	to believe in something
2. Enjoy	to like something
3. Struggles	tasks that get in the way of a main goal
4. Achievement	things accomplished by a group, person, thing
5. Generation	people born and living at around the same time
<b>Paragraph Two Terms</b>	<b>Definitions</b>
1. Believe	to have faith in something
2. Engaged	to be interested or focused
3. Challenging	a slightly hard but doable task
4. Joys	something that makes you happy
5. Discomforts	something that makes you upset or that makes you feel weird
<b>Paragraph Three Terms</b>	<b>Definitions</b>
1. Leadership	State of being the leader
2. Efficiency	effectiveness
3. Secure	not subject to a threat
4. Producing	make or manufacture
5.	
<b>Paragraph Four Terms</b>	<b>Definitions</b>
1. Dependence	State of relying on someone else
2. Bargaining	negotiate terms and conditions of a transaction
3. Abundant	existing or available in large quantities
4. Power	ability to do something in a better way
5.	
<b>Paragraph Five Terms</b>	<b>Definitions</b>
1. Traditions	Customs or beliefs that go from generation to generation
2. Inspiring	having an effect on someone
3. Community	a group of people all living in one place
4. Task	a piece of work that needs to be done
5.	

**Table 2. Understanding the Meaning of the Creed**

Paragraph One questions:

1. Would you continue to do something even though its difficult?
2. Would you continue to do something even though it discouraging, but you enjoy it?
- 3.
- 4.

Paragraph Two questions:

1. What could be some of the joys or discomforts of agriculture?
2. What does it mean to have an inborn fondness towards something?
- 3.
- 4.

Paragraph Three questions:

1. What does it mean to work efficiently?
2. What does it mean to market the "Product of our toil"?
- 3.
- 4.

Paragraph Four questions:

1. Do you agree with the quote "I believe in less dependence on begging and more power in bargaining"? If not, why?
2. What do you think "in less need for charity and more of it when needed..." means?
- 3.
- 4.

Paragraph Five questions:

1. Do you agree with the quote "I believe that American agriculture can and will hold true to the best traditions of our national life..."?
2. What does, "I can exert an influence in my home and community which will stand solid for my part in that inspiring task." mean to you?
- 3.
- 4.

**Table 3. Interview Candidates**

<b>Adult sources:</b>	<b>Peer sources:</b>
Mrs. Smith	Charles

Mom	Zack
Grandparents	Sarah

**Table 4. Paragraph Responses**

**Paragraph one:** Choose a parent, grandparent, or other adult to talk about their agricultural experiences. Read aloud and show to them paragraph one. Then ask, "What does it mean to you?" Record their responses. Type the results of the discussion with your relative in paragraph form.

"I believe that agriculture is the best way to build and sustain the future." I agree with my mom and this statement. I firmly believe that agriculture way make our future brighter. Without agriculture, the world would fall apart.

**Paragraph Two:** Choose a peer to talk about their agricultural experiences. Read aloud and show them paragraph two. Then ask, "What does it mean to you?" Record their responses. Type the results of the discussion with your peer in paragraph form.

"Agriculture gives me a better understanding of nature and helps me understand what its useful for. It also can teach you how to do things in life later down the road. This quote is from my peer Charles. I also completely agree with this quote, agriculture will teach everyone an important lesson throughout their life.

**Paragraph Three:** What does paragraph three mean to you? Type your reflection of paragraph three in paragraph form.

Paragraph three talks about leadership, efficiency, and respect. To get trough life and FFA, you will need these qualities to succeed in everything. To me, this paragraph shows that to successfully go through life you will need all of these characteristics to do whatever you want.

**Paragraph Four:** Illustrate the meaning of paragraph four using pictures on the piece of poster board provided. You may want to draw, paint, use markers, colored pencils, magazine pictures, computer graphics, et cetera. Use a combination of pictures and titles to illustrate on a poster "What paragraph four means to you".

I believe that this paragraph wants to show however is reading it, that you need to be less dependent on others. This paragraph has a "do it yourself" theme to it. I also believe that I should do what makes me happy in life. If someone didn't do what made them happy, whats the point of doing it for the rest of your life.

**Paragraph Five:** Choose one of the previous methods and record, "What paragraph five means to you".

I believe that this paragraph can influence and make everyone happier. This paragraph talks about how agriculture will keep traditions alive and well, as well as the people.