



To: Envirothon Participants
From: Kelsey Cook, Current Issue Oral Presentation & Duval County 4-H Extension Agent
Joyce Tuten, Current Issue Written Exam
Date: March 2, 2023 (Regional Envirothon)
RE: 2023 Current Issue Topic and Format

The Regional Envirothon requires teams to prepare and present an oral presentation on the selected current issue topic. ALL team members are expected to participate in the presentation and questions asked by the judges. Please find the key topics attached:

- learning objectives and a topic overview
- Study Resources
- helpful hints handout
- scoring rubric and score card

2023 Current Issue Topic: Adapting to a Changing Climate

2023 Current Issue Question: In your own local community, pick one impact of climate change that is negatively affecting Florida's natural resources. Explain the impact and discuss three (3) specific adaptation strategies that you would encourage citizens to adopt. Explain how these adaptations will help protect the natural resource (think: social, economic, environmental)

2023 Current Issue Format:

- All teams will have the same question as stated above.
- The team will have 2 minutes to present to the judges. It is important to be prompt, as time will be called at 2 minutes to maintain the event schedule.
- A portion of the score will be based on the entire team's involvement of the presentation.
- No other teams can listen to another teams unless they have presented.
- Questions will be asked by the judges.
- Teams will be allowed to use notes for the presentation, but will be expected not to read directly from the notes. Visuals or posters may not be used. **Please note: note cards of any kind are NOT allowed at the state level.**

Current issue written test contact: Joyce Tuten, joyce.tuten@gmail.com

If you have any questions or comments please contact Kelsey Cook
khaupt@ufl.edu or (904)255-7450.



Current Topic Resources

Adapting to a Changing Climate

Resources are compiled for both the oral presentation and the written exam.

All links are live and continuously being updated.

National Envirothon Current Issue Study Guide

<https://envirothon.org/the-competition/current-competition/>

Local—Adapting to a Changing Climate Presentation

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1bV3mwQnSiG-zvWu8R1DndPEx9nqwynk3-U5HHQjoS5A/edit?usp=sharing>

Specific Topic Resources

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1W7BaSMOuDTB_Ukb4WVmTO0AxHjTK8x-NSiAp_zwIJTY/edit?usp=sharing

Website Resources Envirothon

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kVdDKgpA4tH-Tr9clEur0ufi-yXYJBsitlCpME04dNQ/edit?usp=sharing>

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Helpful Hints for Group Presentations

The purpose of the Current Issues oral presentation is to prepare students to orally support environmental issues in public as a group. The contest is evaluated on two components: composition (organization) and delivery. Speech organization is critical for making the point of the speech even though the obvious steps may sound trite. Here is a model that will help your team maximize your success in the speech composition (organization) points. This template will work for any speech or presentation you make. These items listed must be a part of the oral presentation. Additional information needs to be added to support and convince your audience of your purpose.

Introduction

Start with an opening that will tie with the closing.

A catchy opening and closing tie is a statement that grabs the attention of the audience to open and close the speech. It can be a poem, quote, idea, question, or story. This catchy opening should be the final statement in the speech's conclusion given by the last speaker.

For example, last week our group had an opportunity to experience a beautiful sunset over one of Florida's 1000 estuaries. (See the closing statement for tie in).

Clearly state your group's purpose.

The introduction must have the 3 points or ideas the speakers will be making. Do not be afraid to use 1, 2, 3.

For example, the purpose of our group is to tell you how estuaries can be preserved by 1) reducing lawn fertilizer, 2) conducting regular septic tank inspections, and 3) properly disposing of pet waste.*

Provide a transition to the next speaker.

Make a smooth transition to the next speaker

For example, Mary will help you understand one of the largest threats to Florida's estuaries – urban lawn fertilizers.*

Body – Idea Support

The body of the speech is where the main points and support of those ideas are presented. Explain or define the issue for the audience that is being covered or why it is important.

For example, excessive amounts of man induced nutrients have resulted in estuaries that produce unnatural algae blooms, fish kills and a decrease in nursery fish populations. This does not only reduce the beauty of the estuary but can have long term negative effects on related rivers and oceans.*

Provide real life examples to make your point.

For example, Grandpa Joe always had the greenest lawn in the neighborhood, and was proud of it. His theory is “if a little is good, than more is better.” Unfortunately that theory is use by many Florida home owners.*

Each speaker should have at lease one quote or fact that supports you idea.

For example, according to University of Florida IFAS Extension the average home owner can reduce the amount of fertilizer used by 3 million pounds by the use of slow release fertilizer and by properly timing applications. In the state of Florida alone, this practice results in over 1 million tons of extra nutrients being applied annually.*

Provide a transition to the next speaker.

For example, I have discussed the problem of fertilizers for estuaries occurring on top of the ground. Now Mary would like to share with you an estuary threat that is occurring under the ground. The unnoticed and forgotten septic systems are a real problem in Florida’s sandy soils.*

Each Speaker 2, 3, and 4 will use the same format that was identified in the introduction. Each of these segments should be about the same length.

Conclusion

The conclusion should serve as a review of the introduction and body of the presentation. It should be a quick summary of the 3 points that were covered in the speech from speakers 2, 3, and 4. It should be similar but not exactly the same.

For example, I hope our group has given you some practical ideas that can help preserve estuaries by first reducing lawn fertilizing by using a slow release fertilizer and by properly timing applications. Secondly you can help preserve estuaries by having a trained professional complete a septic system inspection on an annual schedule. And finally by simply encouraging you community pet owners to regularly properly dispose of pet waste.*

Remember to tie to your groups opening catchy statement.

The opening and closing tie helps the listener know the speech is coming to the end (see introduction).

For example, it is our group’s hope by following these ideas to save our estuaries you will have an opportunity for many years in the future to experience a sunset over one of Florida’s 1000 beautiful estuaries.*

***Please note that the example on this document are completely fabricated and are not backed up with data. It is important that you research and document all facts and figures for your presentation.**

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Current Issues Scoring Rubric

Speech Composition (Total 16 points)

Score Point 11-16

- The speech was well organized with an introduction that captures the attention of the audience and ties to the closing statement.
- The purpose of the speech was clearly stated in the introduction and reviewed in the conclusion.
- The main points were clearly stated and organized so the listener could easily identify the main points of the speech.
- The material strongly supports the main points of the speech and the team's view of the subject matter.
- The supporting data is from reliable sources
- Proper grammar was used throughout the speech
- The main points of the speech were easily understood and appropriate for the audience

Score Point 6 – 10

- The speech did exhibit some semblance of organization, but lacked a catchy introduction that ties to the closing statement.
- The speech had a purpose, but it was not specific or it was not clearly stated in the introduction and reviewed in the conclusion.
- The main points were somewhat clear and organized but the listeners could not easily identify the points at the end of the speech.
- Some of the material supports the main points of the speech and the team's view of the subject matter.
- Some of the supporting data is from reliable sources
- Proper grammar was used in some of the speech
- Some of the main points of the speech were easily understood and appropriate for the audience

Score Point 0 – 5

- The speech was not well organized and lacked an introduction that ties to the closing statement.
- The main points were not clearly stated and organized so the listener could easily identify the points at the end of the speech.
- The material did not support the main points of the speech and/or the team's view of the subject matter
- The supporting data is from unreliable sources. Proper grammar was not used.
- The main points of the speech were difficult to understand and not appropriate for the audience.

Speech Delivery (14 points)

Score Point 10-14

The speakers delivered the speech in a relaxed manner that was smooth and flowing.
The speech was delivered in a clear and distinct manner.
The speakers provided effective voice variation i.e. volume, speed and pitch.
The group equally shared in the presentation and exhibited a superior ability to present as a team.
All team members had excellent eye contact with the audience.
All team members exhibited poise, confidence and composure.

Score Point 6– 9

Some of the speakers delivered the speech in a relaxed manner that was smooth and flowing.
The speech was delivered in a clear and distinct manner.
Some of the speakers provided effective voice variation i.e. volume, speed and pitch.
Some of the group shared in the presentation and exhibited the ability to present as a team.
Some of the team members maintained eye contact with the audience.
Some of the team members exhibited poise, confidence and composure.

Score Point 0 – 5

Few speakers delivered the speech in a relaxed manner that was smooth and flowing.
The speech was not delivered in a clear and distinct manner.
Few of the speakers provided effective voice variation i.e. volume, speed and pitch.
The group did not equally share in the presentation and did not exhibit the ability to present as a team.
Few of the team members had eye contact with the audience.

Scoring Breakdown	
Speech Composition	16 points
Speech Delivery	14 points
TOTAL	30 points

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Current Issues Score Card

Team Name: _____ Score _____

Judge: _____ Date _____

Evaluation	Possible Score	Score
I. Speech Composition (16 points)		
Organization of Material Introduction captures attention; purpose clearly stated, main points organized and balanced; transitions used correctly; main points reviewed and restated in conclusion, opening and closing ties.	7	
Support of Team's View Supporting data augments the team's view of the subject matter.	5	
Comprehension, Accuracy & Use of Language Knowledge and understanding of topic; reliable sources cited. Good grammar; Topic is understandable as described.	4	
Comments:		
II. Speech Delivery (14 points)		
Projection to Audience & Voice Control Delivery relaxed, smooth and flowing; spoke clearly. Effective regulation of volume, voice variation and rate of words.	6	
Team Work Ability to share in the presentation - ability to work as a team.	5	
Eye Contact & Poise Eye contact with audience with confidence and composure.	3	
Comments		
TOTAL POINTS (Total 30points)	30	

Room for additional comments on back: