



Alabama Farmers Federation  
Young Farmers Program

# **2024-2025 Excellence in Agriculture**

*The 2024 Excellence in Agriculture presentations will be held during the Alabama Farmers Federation Farm & Land Expo, August 1-4, in Mobile, Alabama.*

Excellence in Agriculture Contest  
**ALABAMA FARMERS FEDERATION**

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# Awards

## **AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION CONVENTION**

The Alabama Farmers Federation (AFF) Excellence in Agriculture (EA) winner(s) and spouse will be awarded transportation, lodging and registration costs necessary to compete in the American Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers and Ranchers EA competition and participating in the recognition and awards program at the American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Convention in San Antonio, Texas, Jan. 23-28, 2025

## **Alabama Farmers Federation Top 3 and Winner**

AFF State Young Farmers Committee and The Alabama Farmers Agricultural Foundation will provide a Custom Alabama Young Farmers Yeti Cooler to the top three competitors. The winner will win, in addition to travel and registration to the AFBF National Convention, a Grasshopper lawnmower , sponsored by Corteva Agriscience

## **NATIONAL COMPETITION PRIZES**

To be announced by American Farm Bureau Federation in Fall, 2024.

## Competition Objectives

Farm Bureau and the Alabama Farmers Federation's strength depends on relationships with young professionals, including those that are active producers as well as those that have off-farm jobs. These relationships with teachers, crop consultants, Extension Agents, salesmen, bankers and others are critical to the survival of the Ag Industry and the sustainability of our organization. Excellence in Agriculture award recognizes and rewards outstanding Young Farmers & Ag Professionals members who do not derive the majority of their income from an owned agricultural operation and have not in any of the past three years, but who actively contribute and grow their involvement in Farm Bureau and agriculture

Contest participants will:

- Evaluate and demonstrate ones' involvement in agriculture.
- Develop public speaking and presentation skills.
- Engage with other Ag professionals and industry representatives from across the state.
- Aid the participant in overcoming timidity or stage fright.
- Assist the individual in the practice of giving and receiving criticism in a helpful manner.
- Engage in broader thinking and deeper understanding of issues facing agriculture today.

## **Background Information**

- The Excellence in Agriculture award is a competition promoted by the Alabama Farmers Federation State Young Farmers Program Committee.
- The Excellence in Agriculture Award competition is designed as an opportunity for young agricultural professionals who do not derive the majority of their income from production agriculture to earn recognition for their contributions to the agriculture industry, while actively contributing and growing through their involvement in the Federation, Farm Bureau and agriculture.

### **Ideal candidate qualities**

- Involvement in agriculture and participation in Farm Bureau programs at the local, state, and national levels is highly encouraged.
- Demonstrates strong leadership ability in Farm Bureau and in other organizations.
- Contributes civic involvement in the community.
- Possesses passion for resolving issues in agriculture today and the ability to propose an action plan for these challenges.
- Ability to communicate one's agricultural journey through written and verbal platforms

## Competitor Qualifications

- Competitors must be active members of the Alabama Farmers Federation to be eligible and between the ages of 18 and 35. They shall not have reached their 36<sup>th</sup> birthday by the date of the AFBF competition of the year in which they will compete at the AFBF Annual Meeting.
- Competitors may be individuals or married couples. Applicant(s) may choose to apply individually or as a couple.
- Previous Alabama Farmers Federation State Excellence in Ag winners are ineligible.
- County, state and American Farm Bureau employees are not eligible. This also includes affiliated companies.
- Applicant(s) must not have derived a majority of net income from an owned production agriculture enterprise in any of the past three years.
- Past and present members of the American Farm Bureau YF&R Committee may not apply.
- Competitors may only compete in one state or national young farmer competitive event at once.

# Helpful Hints for Competitors

## Helpful Application Guidelines

1. Do not use name, the name of county, or any names that may bring about the recognition or identification of the applicant's county or state beyond the entry form.
2. The entry form and application must be completed in first person narrative (i.e. I, me, we, etc.) for questions I-V. Applicants must use "A1" and "A2" to denote each applicant for all of question VI.
3. Do not use abbreviations or acronyms.
4. Adequately give details on background, personal impact on agriculture, and future goals for improving the industry.
5. When working on question 4A, focus on issues impacting agriculture that meet three of the following criteria- one that is local, one that is state, one that is national, or one that is international.
6. Competitors are encouraged to research "headlines" and other focus points of the Federation, American Farm Bureau or stakeholder groups for issues facing agriculture.

## Presentation guidelines & tips

- Presentation will be an interactive, 25-minute presentation, in which the applicant has an opportunity to share the contents of his/her/their entire application in narrative form with a panel of three judges and the audience.
- The only visual means in which to deliver the information is through a PowerPoint or Prezi presentation. No props (including notes), sound or video will be allowed during the presentation.
- Verbal and presentation references to applicant name, state and county will be allowed during the presentation.
- Each judge will be allowed to ask one question at the conclusion of the presentation.
- Time management for presentation and questions is the sole responsibility of the applicant(s)

## State Competition Format

1. All applications will have been judged by three judges prior to the Farm and Land Expo each August. Judges will bring scores and applicable comments to the competition.
2. All competitors will receive a presentation schedule and time in July prior to the Farm & Land Conference in August.
3. All competitors will arrive 20 minutes before their assigned time to check in with the room chair.
4. Competitors will bring a presentation, suitable for Microsoft formats, on a jump drive with them to the presentation room. The room chair will aid in uploading their presentation. Prezi is allowed but know that internet connections can be unreliable in conference settings.
5. A room chair and area director will be present in the presentation room before, during and after the presentation. Any questions should be directed to them prior to the start of the competition.
6. Room chair will indicate when five minutes are remaining. Time will be called at the end of 25 minutes.
7. Competitors will not be allowed to bring smart watches, notes, or phones with them during the presentation.
8. After all competitors have presented, judges will deliberate and choose a second runner up, first runner up and winner to be recognized at the closing banquet of the Farm and Land Expo on Saturday evening.
9. Top three finalist will receive their prize on Saturday evening or can be delivered by area directors following the competition.
10. The State Winner will be recognized again at the Federation Annual Meeting in December and will receive their grand prize following the meeting.



## Scoring

The room chairman/ YF Coordinator will supervise the final tabulation by the judges. Judges will use the point system indicated on the score sheet to assist in selecting their winners. Both application and presentation scores will be tabulated for a final grand total for each participant. Each judge will be instructed to total his/her score sheet and rank the competitors. Each judge is to break ties that occur on his/her own score sheet. The room chairman will assist the judges in determining the final ranking of the competition. The winner will be determined by judges' ranking, and ties will be resolved before the judges are dismissed. See attached application and presentation scoring rubrics.

# Study Materials and Resources

## General Sources

- [Alabama Farmers Federation](#)
  - [Neighbors Magazine](#)
  - [Alfa Cultivator](#)
  - [Alabama AgCast](#)
- [American Farm Bureau Federation](#)
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## Government Entities and Organizations

- Government:
  - [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#)
  - [National Institute of Food and Agriculture \(NIFA\)/](#)
  - [Alabama Cooperative Extension System](#)
  - [U.S. Department of Labor](#)
  - [U.S. Department of Education](#)
  - [Environmental Protection Agency – Agriculture](#)
  - [Alabama Department of Ag and Industries](#)
  - [U.S. Department of State- Climate and Environment](#)
  - [U.S. Forest Service](#)
- State and Federal Legislatures
  - [United States Congress](#)
  - [The Alabama Legislature](#)
- Others
  - [American Farmland Trust](#)
  - [American Lands Council](#)
  - [Animal Agriculture Alliance](#)
  - [Beginning Farmers](#)
  - [National Agriculture in the Classroom](#)
  - [Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education](#)
  - [U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance \(USFRA\)](#)

**American Farm Bureau Federation  
Young Farmers & Ranchers Excellence in Agriculture Award**

**Scoring Sheet – Application**

**Ag Involvement, Impact on Ag and Issues Facing Ag**

**Agricultural Involvement**

**Question 2AB - Evaluate the competitor(s) involvement and contributions to the ag industry.**

Award up to 60 points:

**Exceeds expectations** - Agricultural involvement is impactful, meaningful and is clearly stated and described. Contributions and involvement are done with the highest level of excellence and set the applicant apart from others. The involvement is an important part of their lives. They make it a priority and show care and/or passion for it.

*Award between 38-60 points*

**Meets expectations** - Agricultural involvement is stated and described. Contributions are adequately completed. Description is relevant and shows some meaningful involvement.

*Award between 16-37 points*

**Needs improvement** - Agricultural involvement is minimal and lacks relevant contributions to the ag industry. Description is lacking or applicant does not fully answer the question.

*Award between 0-15 points*

Notes:

Total points            /60

**Impact on Agriculture**

**Question 3 - Evaluate the competitor(s) overall impact on the agriculture industry.**

Award up to 60 points:

**Exceeds expectations** - Applicant clearly describes a strong desire and effort to make a positive impact on the agricultural industry using specific examples. Applicant shows significant effort and impact is evident.

*Award between 38-60 points*

**Meets expectations** - Applicant describes efforts to make a positive impact on the agricultural industry. Applicant offers examples.

*Award between 16-37 points*

**Needs improvement** - Applicant lists efforts but does not show much, or any impact or impact is insignificant. Applicant does not offer clear examples or offers irrelevant examples or applicant does not answer the question.

*Award between 0-15 points*

Notes:

Total points            /60

**Issues Facing Agriculture****Question 4AB - Evaluate the competitor(s) knowledge of ag issues and ideas for responding to them.**

Award up to 60 points:

**Exceeds expectations** - Applicant clearly listed three important issues that are relevant and important. The applicant shows a deep understanding of the issues. The applicant clearly explained well-thought-out ideas that show how they are working to resolve these issues or offered thoughtful action items that can be put into place to respond to them.

*Award between 38-60 points*

**Meets expectations** - Applicant listed three important issues. Applicant explained how they are working to resolve them or offered action items that can be put into place to respond to them. Ideas could be more detailed or relevant.

*Award between 16-37 points*

**Needs improvement** - Applicant listed less than three issues or listed three questionable issues that could be deemed as "not important" to most people. Applicant does not show a good understanding of the issues. Applicant has some ideas to help respond to them, but they are not well thought out and/or the applicant has personally done little to nothing to address the problem.

*Award between 0-15 points*

Notes:

Total points \_\_\_\_\_ /60

Total for Ag Involvement, Impact on Ag and Issues Facing Ag points = \_\_\_\_\_ Out of 180

**Goals****Question 5 - Evaluate goals, the impact of those goals on agriculture and steps that have been taken to reach the goals.**

Award up to 40 points:

**Exceeds expectations** - Applicant's goals are thoughtful, significant and of a high quality. Goals are clearly stated, and well thought out. Goals are realistic, relevant and offer a positive impact to agriculture or the ag industry. Applicant has taken active and significant steps towards reaching many of the goals.

*Award between 26-40 points*

**Meets expectations** - Applicant's goals are average in quality and quantity. Goals are relevant and realistic and could offer some positive impact to the industry. Applicant has completed some steps towards reaching a few goals.

*Award between 11-25 points*

**Needs improvement** - Applicant lists a few goals that are of a lower quality and have little value to bettering the agriculture industry. Goals are unrealistic, irrelevant or not specific. Applicant has taken very few or no steps towards reaching reach the goals.

*Award between 0-10 points*

Notes:

Total Goal points = \_\_\_\_\_ Out of 40

**Leadership Experience**

\*Experience should be from the time the applicant(s) was/were 18 to current.

**Question 6A** - List Farm Bureau leadership roles, involvement opportunities, recognitions and/or awards received by the applicant(s), indicating service on committees, boards or as officers.

Award up to 90 points:

**Exceeds expectations** - A significant amount of quality and impactful experiences, including diverse experiences that involve serving in leadership positions and not simply being a member. Several recognitions/awards are listed and are relevant and significant in nature. Experiences include local, state, national and possibly international.

*Award between 57-90 points*

**Meets expectations** - A moderate amount of experience with a mix of experiences that include both being a member as well as serving in leadership roles. Some recognitions/awards are listed and are somewhat relevant in nature. Experiences include local, state and possibly national.

*Award between 23-56 points*

**Needs improvement** - Little to no experience. Many experiences listed are being a member with little to no experiences serving in a leadership role. Little to no recognitions/awards are listed and are not significant in nature. Experiences mostly are local and state.

*Award between 0-22 points*

Notes:

Total points /90

**Question 6B** - List other agricultural leadership roles, involvement opportunities, recognitions and/or awards received by the applicant(s), indicating service on committees, boards or as officers. (i.e. Farm Credit, Soil Conservation, Farm Service Agency, farm cooperatives, 4-H, etc.).

Award up to 50 points:

**Exceeds expectations** - A significant amount of quality and impactful experiences across multiple organizations, including diverse experiences that involve serving in leadership positions and not simply being a member. Several recognitions/awards are listed and are relevant and significant in nature. Experiences include local, state, national and possibly international.

*Award between 32-50 points*

**Meets expectations** - A moderate amount of experience across several organizations, with a mix of experiences that include both being a member as well as serving in leadership roles across several organizations. Some recognitions/awards are listed and are somewhat relevant in nature. Experiences include local, state and possibly national.

*Award between 13-31 points*

**Needs improvement** - Little to no experience and/or experience(s) are limited to a few organizations. Many experiences listed are being a member with little to no experiences serving in a leadership role. Little to no recognitions/awards are listed and are not significant in nature. Experiences mostly are local and state.

*Award between 0-12 points*

Notes:

Total points: /50

**Question 6C** - List other community and non-agricultural leadership roles, involvement opportunities, recognitions and/or awards received by the applicant(s), indicating service on committees, boards or as officers (i.e. civic/service clubs, church, school, volunteer leadership, etc.).

Award up to 30 points:

**Exceeds expectations** - A significant amount of quality and impactful experiences across multiple organizations, including experiences that involve serving in leadership positions and not simply being a member. Several recognitions/awards are listed and are relevant and significant in nature. Experiences include local, state, national and possibly international.

*Award between 20-30 points*

**Meets expectations** - A moderate amount of experience across several organizations with a mix of experiences that include both being a member as well as serving in leadership roles across several organizations. Some recognitions/awards are listed and are somewhat relevant in nature. Experiences include local, state and possibly national.

*Award between 8-19 points*

**Needs improvement** - Little to no experience and/or experience(s) are limited to a few organizations. Many experiences listed are being a member with little to no experiences serving in a leadership role. Little to no recognitions/awards are listed and are not significant in nature. Experiences mostly are local and state.

*Award between 0-7 points*

Notes:

Total points      /30

**Total Experience points = \_\_\_\_ Out of 170**

### **Application Form**

Evaluate the overall quality and readability of the application. Did the competitor(s) follow instructions that were given? Was the application free of any grammatical or spelling errors? Was the application easy to read and did the responses have a general flow?

Award up to 10 points:

**Exceeds expectations** - Application was clearly written with no grammatical and/or spelling errors. Directions were followed and the application was extremely easy to read.

*Award between 7-10 points*

**Meets expectations** - Application was readable and had few minor grammatical and/or spelling errors. Directions were followed. The application was fairly easy to read.

*Award between 3-6 points*

**Needs improvement** - Applicant either did not follow directions and/or had many grammatical and/or spelling errors. The application was hard to read.

*Award between 0-2 points*

Notes:

**Total Application points = \_\_\_\_ Out of 10**

**American Farm Bureau Federation  
Young Farmers & Ranchers Excellence in Agriculture Award**

**Scoring Sheet - Application**

**Total Scores - Application**

**Points Scored**

Ag Involvement, Impact on Ag and Issues Facing Ag (Questions 2-4) \_\_\_\_\_ out of 180

Goals (Question 5) \_\_\_\_\_ out of 40

Leadership Experience (Question 6) \_\_\_\_\_ out of 170

Application Form \_\_\_\_\_ out of 10

**Total Points** \_\_\_\_\_ **out of 400**

**Overall Rank** \_\_\_\_\_

**American Farm Bureau Federation  
Young Farmers & Ranchers Excellence in Agriculture Award**

**Scoring Sheet - Presentation**

**Part 1. Delivery of Presentation**

*Please award this portion up to 30 points.*

1A. Has an engaging opening, thoughtful conclusion and bridges ideas and messages. Uses smooth transitions.

1B. Has a coherent story line, tells a compelling and well-organized story with a clear message that is easy to follow.

1C. Speaks clearly, conveying comfort and confidence when speaking, while effectively using their voice to engage the audience. Uses clear language. (i.e. good volume, clarity, articulation, enunciation).

1D. Has a strong command of the presentation and its content. Does not read slides.

1E. Uses appropriate body language – eye contact and natural gestures.

1F. Time is used effectively.

<b>1A. Has an engaging opening, thoughtful conclusion and bridges ideas and messages. Uses smooth transitions. (7 points)</b>			
0-1 - Needs significant improvement	2-3 - Needs slight improvement	4-5 - Meets expectations	6-7 - Exceeds expectations
Made no attempt at an engaging opening, abruptly ended without a conclusion. Pauses between ideas, does not clearly bridge between messages/transitions are clunky and noticeable.	Opening was not engaging/conclusion was weak. Transitions between ideas and messages could be smoother.	Has an engaging opening and thoughtful conclusion. Bridges ideas/messages and uses smooth transitions.	Opening is very engaging, catches attention and interests listeners. Conclusion is well thought out. Bridges ideas and messages with smooth transitions. Is purposeful in content and messaging.

<b>1B. Has a coherent story line, tells a compelling and well-organized story with a clear message that is easy to follow. (7 points)</b>			
0-1 - Needs significant improvement	2-3 - Needs slight improvement	4-5 - Meets expectations	6-7 - Exceeds expectations
Story is disorganized, does not have a clear message, is not memorable.	Story is not well organized and is hard to follow.	Tells a compelling, well-organized story.	Tells a compelling easy to follow story with solid take aways and is memorable.



**1C. Speaks clearly, conveying comfort and confidence when speaking, while effectively using their voice to engage the audience. Uses clear language (i.e. good volume, clarity, articulation, enunciation). (6 points)**

0-1 - Needs significant improvement	2 - Needs slight improvement	3-4 - Meets expectations	5-6 - Exceeds expectations
Very nervous and uncomfortable speaking. Voice is too quiet, loud, monotone or mumbles. There are long pauses. Many filler words are used.	Lacks confidence and is not comfortable. Language choice isn't always clear, and voice does not help listener stay engaged. Speaker's volume isn't appropriate, has poor articulation and enunciation and uses several filler words.	Conveys comfort and confidence when speaking. Understandable language is used. Is engaging with good volume, clarity, enunciation and doesn't have many long pauses and/or filler words.	Conveys extreme comfort and confidence when speaking. Language is clear and understandable. Has an ease in their speaking. Uses good volume and enunciation and language is free of filler words and/or excessive jargon.

**1D. Has a strong command of the presentation and its content. Does not read slides. (4 points)**

0 - Needs significant improvement	1 - Needs slight improvement	2-3 - Meets expectations	4 - Exceeds expectations
Shows little to no understanding of the subject area. Reads slides.	Lacks confidence in their understanding of the subject area. Looks at slides to help remember points.	Clearly has a solid understanding of the subject area and presents well. Does not read slides.	Shows an extremely solid understanding of the content being presented. Does not read slides at all.

**1E. Uses appropriate body language (eye contact and natural gestures). (3 points)**

0 - Needs significant improvement	1 - Needs slight improvement	2 - Meets expectations	3 - Exceeds expectations
No eye contact, stiff body language and gestures.	Body language does not show confidence. Speaker(s) only make occasional eye contact.	Body language is appropriate and not distracting. Uses significant eye contact.	Body language is thoughtful and natural. Makes meaningful and deliberate eye contact.

**1F. Time is used effectively. (3 points)**

0 - Needs significant improvement	1 - Needs slight improvement	2 - Meets expectations	3 - Exceeds expectations
Not all slides or content was covered due to poor timing. If two speakers, one rarely spoke.	Speeds up at the end/spends too much time on one topic. If two speakers, they do not evenly share content.	Time is used effectively. If two speakers, they do an adequate job of sharing time.	Has an excellent sense of time and pace. If two speakers, they share the content and smoothly transition between each other.

**Part 2. Content of Presentation**

*Please award this portion up to 40 points total.*

2A. Specifically addresses the contestant’s involvement, significance and success with agriculture, Farm Bureau and other organizations.

2B. Conveys a meaningful contribution to the industry and understanding of agriculture.

2C. Communicates a strong passion and personal convictions to advocate for agriculture. Takes initiative and shows significant time and talent given to promote the industry.

2D. Specific and attainable goals are set and communicated, with significant action being taken to reach those goals related to the applicant’s career and involvement in Farm Bureau and other organizations.

2E. Uses visuals to aid understanding.

<b>2A. Specifically addresses the contestant’s involvement, significance and success with agriculture, Farm Bureau and other organizations. (10 points)</b>			
0-1 - Needs improvement	2-3 - Needs slight improvement	4-7 - Meets expectations	8-10 - Exceeds expectations
Few or no examples are addressed, and no real impact is explained. Examples are dated and irrelevant.	Some examples given, some impact and success shown.	Examples are given. Involvement in Farm Bureau and other organizations is shown and significant impact is addressed.	Gives specific examples of involvement in Farm Bureau and other organizations. Examples show excellent success and significant impact on agriculture. Examples are relevant and timely.

<b>2B. Conveys a meaningful contribution to the industry and understanding of agriculture. (10 points)</b>			
0-1 - Needs significant improvement	2-3 - Needs slight improvement	4-7 - Meets expectations	8-10 - Exceeds expectations
Does not specifically convey contributions. Examples given are not relevant. Shows a weak understanding of issues facing agriculture and the understanding is narrow in scope.	Conveys some relevant contributions. Shows a general understanding of issues facing agriculture at a local, state and/or national level.	Conveys clear contributions to the industry with specific examples. Understands key issues facing agriculture on a local, state, national and/or international level.	Strongly conveys meaningful and significant contributions to agriculture, gives examples and shows relevance. Shows an extremely strong understanding of issues facing agriculture on local, state, national and international levels.

<b>2C. Communicates a strong passion and personal convictions to advocate for agriculture. Takes initiative and shows significant time and talent given to promote the industry. (10 points)</b>			
0-1 - Needs significant improvement	2-3 - Needs slight improvement	4-7 - Meets expectations	8-10 - Exceeds expectations
Applicant does not communicate their passion for agriculture or is not able to share quality examples of how they advocate for the industry. Little to no time and talent are invested to help promote the industry.	Applicant shows passion for agriculture but lacks quality and specific examples. Little to no meaningful initiative is taken as they advocate for the industry and a limited amount of extra time and talent are identified.	Applicant expresses passion for the industry and provides some specific examples of their advocacy work. Initiative is taken and expressed through examples of time and talent identified.	Applicant eloquently communicates their extreme passion for being an advocate for the industry. Meaningful, intentional and deliberate initiative is taken. Actual and specific examples are shared of time and talent given to the industry.

<b>2D. Specific and attainable goals are set and communicated, with significant action being taken to reach those goals related to the applicant's career and involvement in Farm Bureau and other organizations. (5 points)</b>			
0-1 - Needs significant improvement	2 - Needs slight improvement	3-4 - Meets expectations	5 - Exceeds expectations
Goals expressed are narrow in scope and are not specific. Little to no effort has been taken to reach the goals.	Goals are not specific and/or thoughtful in nature. Few actual steps have been taken to reach the goals.	Several specific goals are communicated and are realistic in nature. Steps have been taken to reach the goals.	Specific goals are thoughtful, realistic and of a high quality. Has taken active and significant steps towards reaching many of the goals.

<b>2E. Uses visuals to aid understanding. (5 points)</b>			
0 - Needs significant improvement	1-2 - Needs slight improvement	3-4 - Meets expectations	5 - Exceeds expectations
Visuals are disorganized, distracting, and irrelevant.	Visuals are not as creative as they could be and could be more relevant to aid in understanding the content.	Visuals are used well to aid in understanding of the content and do not distract from the presentation.	Attractive visuals are used in an engaging way that do not distract from the presentation, but aid in understanding and relevance.

### Part 3. Questions

Please award this portion up to 30 points total.

3A. Gives thoughtful, knowledgeable and clear answers.

3B. Answers clarify and expand upon topics and issues presented. Puts any negative into positive context.

3C. Does not pause, mumble, use excessive jargon or filler words and body language remains confident.

<b>3A. Gives thoughtful, knowledgeable and clear answers. (15 points)</b>			
0-2 - Needs significant improvement	3-6 - Needs a few improvements	7-11 - Meets expectations	12-15 - Exceeds expectations
Does not show knowledge, is unclear, is not thoughtful or avoids the questions.	Shows limited knowledge and gives somewhat vague answers. Is not clear and responses could be better thought out.	Gives knowledgeable responses to questions. Clearly understands the questions and responds thoughtfully.	Gives incredibly thoughtful, knowledgeable, clear and well thought out answers that specifically addresses the questions.

<b>3B. Answers clarify and expands upon topics and issues presented. Puts any negative into positive context. (9 points)</b>			
0-1 - Needs significant improvement	2-3 - Needs slight improvement	4-6 - Meets expectations	7-9 - Exceeds expectations
Answers negatively, does not address topics, does not expand ideas or topics. Avoids the questions.	Answers clarify but do not expand on topics/issues, may not be able to transition negatives into positives.	Clarifies and most negatives are turned into positive context. Answers and expands upon topics/issues presented.	Answers significantly clarify the topics/issues presented. All negatives are turned into positive context.

<b>3C. Does not pause, mumble, use excessive jargon or filler words and body language remains confident. (6 points)</b>			
0-1 - Needs significant improvement	2 - Needs slight improvement	3-4 - Meets expectations	5-6 - Exceeds expectations
Is not confident in answers. Mumbles, uses jargon and/or many filler words while answering questions.	Answers questions confidently but mumbles or uses a few filler words to answer.	Questions are answered with ease, rarely pauses, mumbles or uses filler words. Body language remains confident.	Questions are answered with grace, ease and an extreme amount of confidence. Doesn't use filler words and does not mumble.