

# Full Opening & Closing Ceremonies

**Directions:** Items that are in parentheses and are italicized are not to be said. Rather they are actions that all team members must be aware of. Some of these actions **are at the discretion of the coaches**, *so please consult your coach as to their preference.* Be sure to pause at all periods and commas. Mr. is said "Mister," and Mdm. is said "Ma-dum."

*Everyone starts out standing in the chair and on the floor.*

President: *(One gavel tap.*  
*Pause for everyone to be seated, especially your team, who should sit down at the same time, except for the President.)*

**Are the judges ready?** (wait for a response)

*(Two gavel taps.)*

**The meeting will come to order. We are now holding a meeting of the South Valley FFA Section.**

**Mr./Mdm. Vice President** *(wait for them to rise & face you), are all officers at their stations?*

Vice President: *(Facing the president)* **I shall call the roll of officers, determine if they are at their stations and report back to you, Mr./ Mdm. President.**  
*(The president sits down.)*

*(Face the sentinel.)* **The sentinel.**

Sentinel: *(Rises and then speaks.)* **Stationed by the door.**

Vice President: **Your duties there?** *(Continue to look & listen to the sentinel.)*

Sentinel: *(Start speaking your part looking at the VP.)*  
**Through this door pass many friends of the FFA. It is my duty to see that the door is open to our friends at all times and that they are welcome. I care for the meeting room and paraphernalia. I strive to keep the room comfortable and assist the president in maintaining order.**  
*(Stay standing.)*

Vice President: *(Turn and face the reporter.)* **The reporter.**

Reporter: *(Rises and then speaks.)* **The reporter is stationed by the flag.**

Vice President: **Why by the flag?** *(Continue to look & listen to the reporter.)*

Reporter: *(Start speaking your part looking at the VP.)*  
**As the flag covers the United States of America, so I strive to inform the**

**people in order that every man, woman and child may know that the FFA is a national organization that reaches from the state of Alaska to the Virgin Islands and from the state of Maine to Hawaii.** *(Stay standing.)*

Vice President: *(Turn and face the treasurer.)* **The treasurer.**

Treasurer: *(Rises and then speaks.)* **Stationed at the emblem of Washington.**

Vice President: **Your duties there?** *(Continue to look & listen to the treasurer.)*

Treasurer: *(Start speaking your part looking at the VP.)*  
**I keep a record of receipts and disbursements just as Washington kept his farm accounts - carefully and accurately. I encourage thrift among the members and strive to build up our financial standing through savings and investments. George Washington was better able to serve his country because he was financially independent.**  
*(Stay standing.)*

Vice President: *(Face the secretary.)* **The secretary.**

Secretary: *(Rises and then speaks.)* **Stationed by the ear of corn.**

Vice President: **Your duties there?** *(Continue to look & listen to the secretary.)*

Secretary: *(Start speaking your part looking at the VP.)*  
**I keep an accurate record of all meetings and correspond with other secretaries wherever corn is grown and FFA members meet. Mr./Mdm. Vice President, why do you keep a plow at your station?**  
*(Stay standing.)*

Vice President: *(Start speaking your part looking at the Secretary.)*  
**The plow is the symbol of labor and tillage of the soil. Without labor, neither knowledge nor wisdom can accomplish much. My duties require me to assist at all times in directing the work of our organization. I preside over meetings in the absence of our president, whose place is beneath the rising sun.**

Secretary: **Why is the president so stationed?**  
*(Stay standing.)*

Vice President: *(Start speaking your part looking at the Secretary.)*  
**The rising sun is the token of a new era in agriculture. If we will follow the leadership of our president, we shall be led out of the darkness of selfishness and into the glorious sunlight of brotherhood and cooperation.**  
  
*(Pause.)*

**Mr./Mdm. President** *(wait for them to stand and face you), all officers are at their stations.*

President: *(Speaking to VP.)* **Thank you, Mr./Mdm. Vice President.**

*(Tap gavel once. Everyone sits down. Then say to the Secretary, and he/she stands.)*

**The secretary will call the role of members.**

Secretary: *(Speaking to the President.)* **There are \_\_\_\_\_** *(Count the number of competing team members present in the room)* **members and numerous guests present, Mr./Mdm. President.**

President: **Thank you.**  
*(Secretary sits down.)*

President: **May we accomplish our purposes. I now declare this meeting of the South Valley FFA Section duly opened for the transaction of business, or attention to any matters which may properly be presented.**

*(Pause.)*

Transition from Opening Ceremonies to Closing is a DELIBERATE PAUSE.

**Mr./Mdm. Secretary** *(wait for them to stand and face you)*, **do you have a record of any further business which should now be transacted?**

Secretary: *(Speaking to President)*

**I have none, Mr./Mdm. President.**

*(Secretary sits down.)*

President: **Does any member know of any new or unfinished business which should properly come before this meeting? We are about to adjourn this meeting of the South Valley FFA Section. As we mingle with others, let us be diligent in labor, just in our dealings, courteous to everyone, and, above all, honest and fair in the game of life.**

*(PAUSE)*

President: **I now declare this meeting adjourned.**

*(Tap gavel once. Pause. Tap the gavel three times. ONLY THE TEAM IN THE CHAIR AND THE NEXT TEAM TO COMPETE WILL STAND*

**(Your Chapter's Name), Team \_\_\_\_\_** *(Your team number)*, **relinquishes the chair to Team \_\_\_\_\_** *(The number after yours)*. *(If you are the last team, you relinquish the chair to the judges.)*

*(Exit out of the "chair" to your left (clockwise rotation), and stand in the row that the next team competing just came from on the "floor.")*

*Next team will begin the ceremonies from the beginning by tapping the gavel once to seat the two standing teams and asking, "Are the judges ready?"*