

2026 Facilitation Hot Topics

The purpose of this round is to evaluate the candidate's ability to plan and facilitate a 10-minute portion of a student workshop in front of a realistic audience. Candidates will be given a set of key points about a topic chosen by the nominating committee. It will be the candidate's responsibility to use the materials provided for them to plan, craft and implement appropriate methods for engaging the audience and addressing the key points.

This round will be 60 minutes in length: Candidates will have 50 minutes to prepare and 10 minutes to facilitate. During their 50 minutes of preparation time, candidates can expect to be provided with all the materials they will need along with a sheet of instructions outlining the specific context and topic for the workshop. Candidates will have a private room to conduct their planning. Following preparation, candidates will move to the interview room where they will have 10 minutes to facilitate to the available audience. Candidates will be given a maximum of three minutes to set up the facilitation room however they please.

Topics for the workshops will fall within one of the following ten "hot topic" areas. The following is a listing of topics to guide your preparation for this particular task in the interview process.

1. Sustainability – “Farming for Tomorrow’s Table.”
Focus: Balancing productivity with environmental stewardship in local communities.
2. Adaptability – “Thriving Through Change in Ag.”
Focus: Navigating shifts in technology, climate, and markets with flexible leadership.
3. Mental Wellness – “Strong Minds, Strong Roots.”
Focus: Building resilience and support systems for FFA members facing stress in ag life.
4. Innovation – “Tech in the Tractor Seat.”
Focus: Embracing new tools (drones, AI, precision ag) while staying grounded in tradition.
5. Belonging – “Every Voice Grows the Field.”
Focus: Creating chapters where all backgrounds feel welcomed and valued in agriculture.
6. Storytelling – “Your Ag Story, Our Shared Future.”
Focus: Using personal narratives to connect with the public and advocate for the industry.
7. Collaboration – “Building Bridges Beyond the Chapter.”
Focus: Partnering with other organizations, schools, and industries for a bigger impact.
8. Legacy – “Planting Seeds That Outlast Us.”
Focus: Creating lasting contributions through mentorship and long-term chapter vision.
9. Resourcefulness – “Doing More with What We Have.”
Focus: Creative problem-solving for chapters with limited budgets, time, or support.
10. Career Readiness – “From FFA Jacket to Future Job.”
Focus: Translating FFA skills into real-world opportunities in agribusiness and beyond.

The specific topic and context for the workshop within these 10 areas will be selected by the nominating committee during preparation for the nominating committee process. Details about the specific topic chosen and the context will be provided to candidates only when they enter the preparation room.