

Class Starters & Enders

Making the Most of Instructional Time Five Minute Lessons

Class Starters and Enders help utilize the last minutes of class when a lesson ends but there is not enough time to start another, or for an interest approach at the beginning of class. Mini-lessons correlate to GPS in the programs areas below.

FFA - American Degree

Program Areas: Agriculture

Instructions: Read the material and make notes of important points, answer questions, and be ready to discuss this topic.



The American Degree is the highest award an FFA member can receive. Members may only apply for the American FFA Degree after obtaining the Greenhand, Chapter, and State FFA Degrees.

The American Degree pin is made of gold, a precious metal to symbolize the importance of this award. The degree itself is shaped as a key to symbolize the key to a great future that may open many doors for the recipients of this award. This degree is presented to the recipients during a special ceremony at the National FFA Convention.

During the first 10 years of the FFA the only degree pin with the American eagle on the top was the American Degree. The Greenhand, Chapter, and State Degrees did not originally have the eagle. If you ever see a FFA pin without the eagle, it was made during the 1930s.

In order to obtain an American Degree members must complete various requirements. They must hold a State Degree, have completed three years of agricultural education, and have been an active member of FFA for three years.

They must have graduated from high school at least 12 months prior to applying and must have earned or invested \$7,500 from a Supervised Agricultural Experience program. Members must have a 2.0 GPA, a recommendation by the principal, and a record of outstanding leadership and community involvement.

The American Degree pin is made of gold and shaped like a key.

All recipients of the American Degree have to undergo an application process at the state and national levels. The member's advisor or teacher must verify that the member met all of the requirements at the state level, and then the application is sent to the National FFA Board of Directors. This is the group that decides who will receive the American Degree.

Review

1. What is the highest award an FFA member can receive?
2. What degrees must an FFA member have in order to apply for the American Degree?
3. Why is the American Degree made of gold?
4. Why is the American Degree shaped like a key?
5. When is the American Degree presented to recipients?
6. What degrees did not originally have the eagle on top?
7. How many years of agricultural education must an FFA member have to apply for the American Degree?
8. How long does an FFA member have to wait until they apply for their American Degree?
9. How much money must an FFA member earn or invest in order to apply for the American Degree?
10. List two additional requirements an FFA member must fulfill to earn an American Degree.

Math Connection

If five percent of all FFA members received an American Degree this year, and there are 100,000 FFA members, how many people received an American Degree?

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