

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 Jacket

Program Areas: Agriculture

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



The FFA jacket worn by state officers includes the state name, the word "association," and the FFA emblem on the back.

What's blue, gold, and symbolizes leadership? The FFA jacket, of course!

This symbol of the FFA organization is a blue corduroy jacket with gold writing. The jacket was originally created by Dr. Gus Litner to be worn by the Fredericktown FFA chapter's band.

On the front of the jacket, the member's first and last names are to the left of the zipper, and the FFA emblem to the right of the zipper. The back of the jacket displays the member's state chapter at the top, the FFA emblem in the center, and the local chapter name at the bottom. Through their FFA careers, students may work to earn metal pins to place on their jackets to represent achievements in contests, proficiencies, and FFA degrees.

State officers wear FFA jackets which say the state name and the word "Association" on the back, and National officers' jackets do not say anything on the back. These members' positions are embroidered on the front of the jackets.

The FFA jacket has been a primary component of the organization's Official Dress since 1933. Official Dress encourages FFA members to dress professionally in order to better represent their chapters and themselves. When wearing the FFA jacket, members have specific rules to follow.

They must always act like a lady or gentleman and refrain from using foul language, tobacco products and alcohol. Only one State Farmer pin should be worn above the name on the right side of the jacket, and all chapter degrees, officer and award metals should be worn beneath the name on the right side of the jacket. No more than three metals can be on the jacket at one time – the highest degree earned, the highest office held, and the highest award earned by the member.

In addition, the jacket can only be worn by FFA members during official occasions, and only to places appropriate for the member to visit. When worn, the jacket must be zipped to the top, and must – along with the rest of Official Dress – be kept clean and neat.

Review

1. What colors are on the FFA jacket?
2. Who originally created the FFA jacket?
3. Where are the student's name and chapter name located on the jacket?
4. What pins can a student receive to put on his jacket?
5. How are national and state officers' jackets different from members' jackets?
6. What does Official Dress encourage?
7. How many metals can be on the jacket at one time?
8. What must an FFA member act like while wearing her FFA jacket?
9. Who can wear the FFA jacket?
10. How must the jacket be worn?

History Connection

Research how FFA jackets changed since their beginning in 1933. Write a one-page paper about what FFA jackets originally looked like and what they look like now.

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