

Oral Component 2014

You are the Sustainable Agriculture club at your high school. At your weekly after-school meetings, your club discusses plans for school projects and host speakers relevant to sustainable agriculture. The club has even become involved in community projects like helping to promote the new farmers market in town. The surrounding community has become very excited about and supportive of local and sustainable agriculture, as evidenced by the weekly sell-out at this new farmer's market. Recently, a community member has agreed to donate the one acre vacant lot located next to the school for a school farm project. The owner has stipulated that sustainable farming methods are to be used in return for the donation of the land. The plot is located next to the school building and is currently covered in grass with a few existing trees.

The judges are your school administrators. Before your donation can be accepted, the Sustainable Agriculture club has to present a plan for use of the land. This plan should include the following:

- What crops to grow (or products to produce)
- Growing techniques and soil development
- Water needs
- Weed and pest management

The Sustainable Agriculture club has some funds from a previous fundraiser that will help pay for any startup costs, but you should explain your plans for economic stability and for the use of any school resources that you plan to utilize in the project. Be sure to demonstrate to the school administrators how your plan will impact the local community, the school, and yourselves.

In your 10 minute presentation, you should:

- Present your plan, addressing the aspects listed above, and incorporating your own ideas for a feasible school farming project
- Imagine that this is your school, and your community, and incorporate your locality as needed
- Not feel obligated to incorporate the other learning stations (wildlife, aquatics, etc.) as traditionally required
- BE CREATIVE