



***Apologetics** is a limited preparation event in which the speaker is given four minutes to prepare a six-minute speech on a topic related to defending his/her faith.*

APOLOGETICS

GENERAL RULES

- The goal of apologetics is to motivate students to study the core issues of their faith and be prepared to articulate a defense of what they believe. Students may come into the event with as much preparation, research, and topic organization as they desire.
- The speech must be an original work, from notes, quotations, verses from presenter's Bible and/or card file box (4x6 or smaller).
- Topics, in the form of questions or statements, must be taken from those available and posted on the NCFCA website. In preliminary rounds, all topics for each round must come from the same subset or type of topic.
- Prep time begins when student receives the topics. The speaker will pick three topics from the envelope, choose one and return the other two.
- During prep time speakers may use Bibles, access card file(s) and write notes on additional 4x6 cards.
- During presentation, speakers may use only cards from file box and note cards written during prep.
- Unused preparation time may not be added to the speaking time.
- The speaker must state the chosen topic early in the presentation. A one rank penalty is required for those who fail to do so.
- All judges in each room will have a list of possible topics.
- No props or audiovisuals will be allowed.
- No speaker is permitted to listen to other apologetics speakers before speaking him/herself. S/he may remain in the room after s/he has given her/his own speech.
- Students may express opinions which are contrary to those of the judge. Each speech should be evaluated on the quality of the analysis and presentation, not the opinions presented.
- All judges for this event must be known to the tournament director(s) to be sympathetic to the ideals of NCFCA. Parents, pastors, and church leaders are good candidates for the judging pool. All judges, during orientation, will be given a thorough explanation of the nature of this event prior to judging.

TIME LIMITS: 4 MINUTES OF PREPARATION TIME; 6 MINUTES MAXIMUM SPEAKING TIME. THERE IS NO MINIMUM TIME.

APOLOGETICS JUDGE WORKSHEET

NAME OF JUDGE _____

Apologetics is a limited preparation speech in which the speaker is given four minutes to prepare a six-minute speech on a topic related to defending his/her faith.

ROOM _____ ROUND # _____

General Rules

- Speech must be an original work prepared from notes, quotations, and verses from presenter's during prep. The goal of apologetics is to motivate students to study the core issues of their faith and be prepared to articulate what they believe. Students may come into the event with as much preparation, research, and topic organization as they desire.
- Speaker must state the chosen topic early in the presentation. A one rank penalty is required for those who fail to do so.
- No props nor audiovisuals will be allowed.
- No speaker is permitted to listen to other apologetics speakers before speaking him/herself. S/he may remain in the room after s/he has given her/his own speech.
- Prep time begins when student receives the topics. The speaker will pick three topics from envelope, choose one, and return the other two.
- During prep time speakers may use Bibles, access card file(s), and may write notes on additional cards (4x6 or smaller).
- During their presentation, speakers may use only cards from file box and note cards written during prep.
- Time limit: 4 minutes of preparation time; 6 minutes maximum speaking time. There is no minimum time.
- Unused preparation time may not be added to the speaking time.
- Students may express opinions that are contrary to those of the judge. Each speech should be evaluated on the quality of the analysis and presentation, not the opinions presented.

Tabulation Worksheet Instructions

- Rank presentations according to preference, 1 being the best, 2 being second best, etc., in the *Original Rank* column.
- Record penalties from the *violations* portion of the ballot in the *Penalties in Rank* column. Record a zero for no penalties.
- Add the original rank and penalties together and write the new rank in the *Re-Ranking* column.
- Using the *Re-Ranking* column to determine final ranks, proceed to fill in all the ranks in the *Final Rank* column. In the event of a tie, the higher rank (lower number) goes to the speaker with no, or fewer, penalties (e.g., two speakers have a 3 in the Re-Ranking column; Speaker A was originally ranked 3rd and Speaker B was 2nd with a 1 rank penalty; 2nd place now goes to Speaker A and 3rd place now goes to Speaker B.)
- Circle the final rank on each corresponding ballot.

NAME OF SPEAKER	TOPIC	ORIGINAL RANK	PENALTIES IN RANK	RE-RANKING	FINAL RANK
			+		
			+		
			+		
			+		
			+		
			+		
			+		
			+		



APOLOGETICS SPEAKING BALLOT

SPEAKER:	
ROOM:	
JUDGE:	
ROUND:	TIME:

Judges: *Your independent ballot is very important to us. Please do not discuss this ballot with anyone.
Please rate the speaker for each of the following criteria.*

The speaker...	Poor				Superior
Content:					
...states the chosen topic and adheres to it.	P	*	*	*	S
...supports assertions with outside evidence and proper source citations.	P	*	*	*	S
...provides a biblical base for position.	P	*	*	*	S
Organization and Analysis:					
...relates a clear thesis statement.	P	*	*	*	S
...demonstrates a thorough, working knowledge of topic, Scripture and sources.	P	*	*	*	S
...discusses the topic using appropriate analysis and reasoning.	P	*	*	*	S
...presents a logical, well reasoned flow of ideas.	P	*	*	*	S
Delivery:					
...communicates directly and sincerely, speaks clearly and conversationally.	P	*	*	*	S
...incorporates proper vocal techniques including: pronunciation, projection, articulation, and pacing.	P	*	*	*	S
...displays appropriate eye contact, gestures, and facial expression.	P	*	*	*	S
...exhibits a good energy level through posture and movement.	P	*	*	*	S
Overall Effective Communication:					
...establishes rapport with the audience by a winsome and sincere presentation.	P	*	*	*	S
...demonstrates sensitivity, thoughtfulness, and respect for different opinions.	P	*	*	*	S
...communicates conviction and passion without arrogance.	P	*	*	*	S
...demonstrates poise and appropriate personal appearance.	P	*	*	*	S
VIOLATIONS REQUIRING A PENALTY IF NECESSARY:					
Failure to address topic (1 rank) + _____ = Total penalty in rank(s) + _____					
FINAL RANK WITHIN ROUND INCLUDING PENALTIES: (Circle one)					
#1 First	#2 Second	#3 Third	#4 Fourth	#5 Fifth & Below	

Reason for Ranking and other Comments: