



The Christian School Speech & Debate League

A Ministry of the Institute for Principle Studies

OFFICIAL VIRTUAL APOLOGETICS SPEECH RULES

I. Format:

- A. The competitor is given four (4) minutes to prepare a persuasive, and reasoned speech that defends a tenet of the Christian faith. The competitor will have a maximum of 6 minutes of speaking time. There is no minimum time requirement.

II. Goal:

- B. Competitors will be motivated to study, articulate, and defend the core issues of their faith in a knowledgeable, sincere, and respectful manner. The focus may or may not be evangelistic. Content is key: greater weight should be given to the speech content, rather than the presentation style.

III. Preparation Rules:

- A. In advance of competition, each competitor may create a card file with index cards no larger than 4" X 6". These cards may contain: Scripture, definitions, quotations, and any other pre-researched material.
- B. Competitors may not share card files during competition.

IV. General Apologetics Rules for the Tournament:

- A. The competitor will be provided 3 topics from the approved LFA list of Apologetic
- B. Apologetics judges should be in agreement with LFA's Statement of Faith.
- C. One judge in each room will be given room administration instructions, including topic distribution.
- D. A list of possible topics will be given to each of the judges in the room.
- E. Preparation time begins as soon as the competitor draws the first topic.
- F. During prep time, the competitor may not use electronic devices or media.
- G. During prep time, the student may use a Bible, pre-prepared index cards.
- H. During prep time, students may create additional index cards with outlines or

notes to use during the speech.

- I. Unused preparation time may not be added to the speaking time.

V. Apologetics Presentation Rules:

- A. The competitor must include the topic of the speech early in the presentation.
- B. If the topic asks a question, the competitor should answer that question at some point during the speech and much of the speech should be devoted to defending this answer.
- C. During the speech, the competitor may only hold and/or access the following materials:
 - * A Bible
 - * Note cards (no limit)
 - * the chosen topic slip.
- D. The speech should be extemporaneous in nature and must be the original work of the competitor.
- E. Students should supported their positions with Scripture, quotations, personal narratives, and/or analysis from outside sources (e.g. commentaries, literature, news articles, testimonials etc.).
- F. The speech should approach the topic from an apologetic perspective. It may or may not be an evangelistic opportunity.
- G. No electronic devices (computers, cell phones, etc.) may be used for preparation or presentation during the round.
- H. Audio recordings, props and visual aids may not be used during the round.
- I. Competitors must not listen to other competitors who speak prior to their speech.

VI. In the Event of Technical Difficulty

- A. Definition of “**Technical Difficulty**”
 - *Technical problem with equipment, and or internet, resulting in loss of communication.*
- B. If the judge should encounter a technical difficulty the round will be paused at the point in the speech in which communication was lost. No more than 3 minutes will be allotted for a judge to resolve any technical issues before his or her ballot is tossed out and the

speaker is asked to resume the speech. The Speaker Rank for the missing ballot will be determined based on the average Speaker Rankings of the remaining judges.

- C. If a competitor should encounter a technical difficulty the speech will resume at the point at which communication was lost. Each competitor will be allotted a total of 2 minutes to handle any technical difficulties. Any time beyond the 2 minute marker will result in a forfeit for the competitor for that event's round. The competitor is still able to compete in their remaining events and rounds should he or she regain connectivity after his or her last event was closed. Competitors must be ready by their next appointed time slot. The competitor who is unable to reconnect will receive the last speaker rank for that event/round. All remaining events will be calculated in the standard competition method.

- D. Should the room have two or more competitors that are unable to complete their speeches, the virtual room judges will need to weigh placement based on the quality of the speech up until the point of disconnection. All completed speeches must be ranked above any uncompleted speeches.

Preparation time -four (4) minutes. Speaking time - six (6) minutes