



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 articulating his/her faith.

APOLOGETICS GENERAL RULES

(For clarification of the General Rules, see the Speech FAQs on the NCFCA website.)

- The speech must be an original work, from notes, quotations, and/or verses from the Bible.
- Students may come into the event with as much preparation, research, and topic organization as they desire.
- All sources must be cited in the speech.
- Topics must be taken from those available and posted on the NCFCA website. Each round's topics must come from a single category, and should consist of any combination of definitions, questions, and statements from that category.
- All judges for this event must be known to the tournament director to be sympathetic to the ideals of NCFCA.
- All judges will have a list of topics for the round.
- A judge in each room will have the envelope of topics for the round. The judge will remove the topics from the envelope and place them face down on the table. The speaker will draw three topics, choose one, and return the other two. Prep time begins when student draws the first topic. The speaker may keep all three topics during their prep time; the speaker may take his chosen topic out of the room at the end of his speech.
- During prep time speakers may use Bibles, previously prepared 4x6 cards from their file box(s), and write notes on additional 4x6 cards.
- During their presentation, speakers may only hold cards from their file box(s) and note cards written during prep time.
- The student is not required to present the Gospel message during their speech.
- Unused preparation time may not be added to the speaking time.
- The student must state the chosen topic early in the speech. A one rank penalty is required for failure to do so.
- Students must adhere to the chosen topic. The topic should be the central theme of the speech. A one rank penalty is required for failure to do so.
- Props, audiovisuals, and gratuitous vulgarity are not allowed.

- Speakers may not listen to other Apologetics speakers before speaking themselves. They may remain in the room after giving their speech.
- Humor and satire are permitted.
- Only feet are permitted to touch the floor at any time.
- Students are permitted to 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.
- Time limit: 4 minutes preparation time; 6 minutes maximum speaking time. There is no minimum time.

APOLOGETICS FAQ

What is the goal of Apologetics?

The goal of apologetics is to motivate students to study the core issues of the faith and be prepared to articulate a defense of what they believe.

Where do I find Apologetics topics?

Topics, in the form of questions or statements, must be taken from those available and posted on the NCFCA website.

Are the current Apologetics topics the same as previous years?

Yes, all the previous topics will be used for the current season.

Who would make good judges for Apologetics?

Parents, pastors, and church leaders are good candidates for the judging pool, since they are most likely to be sympathetic to the ideals of NCFCA.

Are competitors allowed to share file boxes?

No. An Apologetics competitor may only use their individual file box during a tournament.

Can I use my Bible?

You may use your Bible during prep time but you may not hold it during your speech.

Can I tell others about the topic of my speech or other speeches in the round?

Speakers will not disclose the topics to other students until after the round has finished.

Why is the student not allowed to disclose topics after leaving the room?

Disclosing topics would allow other competitors to have an advantage of additional time to think about their speech.

My child has special needs and/or circumstances. Can he be considered an exception to a competition rule?

From a practical standpoint, an exception here would open the door for a host of exceptions. An unlimited number of participants could see themselves in need of exceptions and an infinite number of potential exceptions requested. It becomes highly complicated to communicate the variety of potential exceptions to the judges as well as competitors. The ultimate purpose for participating in competitive forensics is for to improve communication skills. Special students have shown much improvement in this environment.

APOLOGETICS

JUDGE WORKSHEET

NCFCA

NAME OF JUDGE _____

ROOM _____ ROUND# _____

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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.
- For violations requiring a penalty, the Ballot Checkers will assist you with the *Re-Ranking* and *Final Rank* columns.
- If there are no violations, fill in the *Final Rank* column.
- Circle the final rank on each corresponding ballot.

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



APOLOGETICS 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. ...supports assertions with outside evidence and proper source citations. ...provides a biblical base for position.	P * * * * *	* * * * S	
Organization and Analysis: ...relates a clear thesis statement. ...demonstrates a thorough, working knowledge of topic, Scripture and sources. ...discusses the topic using appropriate analysis and reasoning. ...presents a logical, well reasoned flow of ideas.	P * * * * *	* * * * S	
Delivery: ...communicates directly and sincerely, speaks clearly and conversationally. ...incorporates proper vocal techniques including: pronunciation, projection, articulation, and pacing. ...displays appropriate eye contact, gestures, and facial expression. ...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. ...demonstrates sensitivity, thoughtfulness, and respect for different opinions. ...communicates conviction and passion without arrogance. ...demonstrates poise and appropriate personal appearance.	P * * * * *	* * * * S	
VIOLATIONS REQUIRING A PENALTY IF NECESSARY: Failure to state topic (1 rank) _____ Failure to adhere to topic (1 rank) _____			
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: (Use back of sheet for additional comments.)

Category 1: EXISTENCE AND NATURE OF GOD

Definitions

1. Explain the meaning and significance of the trinity.
2. Explain the meaning and significance of the omniscience of God.
3. Explain the meaning and significance of the omnipotence of God.
4. Explain the meaning and significance of the omnipresence of God.
5. Explain the meaning and significance of the transcendence of God.
6. Explain the meaning and significance of the immanence of God.
7. Explain the meaning and significance of the eternity of God.
8. Explain the meaning and significance of the immutability of God.
9. Explain the meaning and significance of the infinite nature of God.
10. Explain the meaning and significance of the holiness of God.
11. Explain the meaning and significance of the righteousness of God.
12. Explain the meaning and significance of the justice of God.
13. Explain the meaning and significance of the sovereignty of God.
14. Explain the meaning and significance of the mercy of God.
15. Explain the meaning and significance of the grace of God.

General Questions

1. In what ways has God revealed Himself to man?
2. If God is real, why can't people see or touch Him?
3. If God is holy, why did He allow sin in the world?
4. How can God be both merciful and just?
5. How can God be one and yet three (unity versus trinity)?
6. Open theology states that God is constantly changing and growing with His creation. Respond to this Biblically.
7. Open theology states that God is constantly growing and changing with His creation. Respond to this logically and pragmatically.
8. Why is the unchanging nature of God critical to who He is?

Statement Analysis

1. Analyze and respond to the statement, "The existence of God and of a future life is everywhere recognized in Africa." David Livingstone
2. Analyze and respond to the statement, "The Old Testament God is a God of hate while the New Testament God is a God of love."

NCFCA Apologetics Topics, Revised 10.04

3. Analyze and respond to the statement, "Gods are fragile things. They may be killed by a whiff of science or a dose of common sense." Chapman Cohen
4. Analyze and respond to the statement, "If God did not exist, it would be necessary to invent Him." Voltaire
5. Analyze and respond to the statement, "What we believe about God is the most important thing about us." A.W. Tozer
6. Analyze and respond to the statement, "God is merely an impersonal force in the universe. He is untouchable and unapproachable."
7. Analyze and respond to the statement, "God set the universe in motion but He has no interest in it."
8. Analyze and respond to the statement, "If God understands my humanity and sin nature better than I do, why does He still hold me accountable for what I cannot help doing?"