

Mars Hill Impromptu

Description: *The competitor uses books, movies, and other genre to discuss the appeal and impact of the theme(s) within the topic, holding them up in light of Christian truth found in the Bible.*

Goals: *The competitor learns to identify truth common to the human condition within popular culture, using those truths to find common ground. The competitor will discuss Christian truths on a conversational, personal level in hopes of encouraging ongoing conversation of spiritual truth.*

Recommendation: *For competitors 14 and older or with the consent of the parents due to mature themes in some topics.*

Mars Hill Administration Rules:

1. A list of possible topics and topic categories will be posted on the Stoa website on the main Speech Events page. Tournament Directors may use the posted list of topics or create a list of their own.
2. Each year the topic and category lists will be reviewed and updated.
3. To ensure a level playing field, the topics for each individual round must be entirely from the list provided on the Stoa website, or entirely from a list created by the tournament staff, not a combination of the two, so all competitors in the round have an equal preparation advantage.
4. All topics in the same round must be of the same category (i.e., “recent movies” “classic books,” etc.)
5. All proposed topics must be available to the competitors at the time of tournament registration.
6. One judge in each room will be given instructions regarding competition room administration as well as the envelope of topics to distribute to each competitor.
7. A list of topics will be given to each of the judges in the room.
8. In the room, a competitor will draw three (3) single topics, provided by the tournament, choose one (1), and return the other two (2) topics before leaving the room. The chosen topic should not be returned.
9. Preparation time begins as soon as the competitor receives the topic choices.
10. The timekeeper will start the digital timepiece when the competitor receives the topics and will give verbal countdown signals every thirty (30) seconds until four (4) minutes have elapsed. Unused preparation time may not be added to the speaking time.

Mars Hill Presentation Rules:

1. The competitor may bring a binder with summaries, background information, personal notes, etc. but not pre-written cards or speeches.
2. The competitor may write notes on a blank note card during preparation time.
3. The competitor may only use the single note card prepared during prep time and the drawn topic paper.
4. The competitor will address the theme(s) (e.g.: characters, plot, message, worldview) expressed in the cultural medium of the topic.
5. The competitor will show the correlation of the theme(s) with Biblical truth.
6. The competitor should assume that the audience is not familiar with Biblical concepts; therefore, any Biblically referenced stories, illustrations, terminology, etc., should be explained in enough depth to make the intended application understood by an individual with no prior knowledge of the Bible.
7. The speech should leave the listener wanting to hear more on the subject.
8. Above all, both the content and the delivery of the speech should communicate a humble, sincere, and gracious attitude that fosters a positive rapport with those who may not share the same faith.
9. Use of props, costumes, and audio or visual aids is prohibited.
10. No computers, Kindles, iPods, cell phones, or other electronic media devices may be used for Mars Hill Impromptu preparation or presentation in the room.
11. Gratuitous vulgarity is strictly prohibited.
12. Competitors must not listen to other Mars Hill competitors speaking before them.
13. Maximum speaking time is six (6) minutes.

Preparation time – four (4) minutes. Speaking time – six (6) minutes. No minimum time.

Mars Hill Impromptu