

# Apologetics

**Description:** *In Apologetics, the competitor is given four (4) minutes to prepare a speech that defends a tenet of the Christian faith. The speaker crafts a speech to reach those curious, not in agreement, or Biblically uninformed with persuasiveness and reasoning.*

**Goal:** *Competitors will be motivated to study, articulate, and defend the core issues of their faith in a knowledgeable, sincere, gentle, and respectful manner.*

## **Apologetics Preparation Rules:**

1. Competitors prepare for Apologetics through Bible study, research, analysis, and organization.
2. Each competitor may create a card file with Scripture, definitions, quotations, and any other helpful material.
3. Competitors may not share boxes during competition.

## **Apologetics Administration Rules:**

1. One judge in each room will be given instructions regarding room administration and the envelope of topics to distribute to the competitors.
2. A list of possible topics will be given to each of the judges in the room.
3. In the room, the 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.
4. Preparation time begins as soon as the competitor receives the topic choices.
5. The timekeeper will start the stopwatch when the competitor receives the topics and give verbal countdown signals every thirty (30) seconds until four (4) minutes have elapsed.
6. Unused preparation time may not be added to the speaking time.
7. All questions/topics must come from the Apologetics Questions list on the main Speech Events page of the Stoa USA website.
8. Apologetics judges should be in agreement with Stoa's Statement of Faith. They should attend judge orientation using the Apologetics Orientation slides found on the main Speech Events page of the Stoa USA website.

## **Apologetics Presentation Rules:**

1. The competitor must answer the topic selected and must defend their position.
2. The speech must be the original work of the competitor and may be supported by Scripture, quotations, and analysis from outside sources (e.g. commentaries, literature, news articles, testimonials etc.).
3. The question or topic should be approached from an apologetic perspective. It may or may not be an evangelistic opportunity.
4. The competitor crafts a speech to reach those curious, not in agreement, or Biblically uninformed with persuasiveness and reasoning. The audience's acceptance of the truth of the Bible should not be assumed.
5. During prep time, the competitor may or may not use a Bible, access card files, and write on additional note cards.
6. No computers, Kindles, iPods, cell phones, or other electronic media devices may be used for Apologetics preparation or presentation.
7. During the speech, the competitor should use only note cards. Speaker may not use a Bible.
8. The competitor must state the given topic early in the speech and adhere to it.
9. No audio or visual aids or props may be used.
10. Gratuitous vulgarity is strictly prohibited.
11. Competitors must not listen to other Apologetics competitors speaking before them.
12. Maximum speaking time is six (6) minutes.

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