

Apologetics

Description: *In Apologetics, the competitor is given four (4) minutes to prepare a persuasive and reasoned speech that defends a tenet of the Christian faith and explains why that principle matters.*

Goal: *Christian apologetics is that area of study aimed at the reasonable defense of the truthfulness of Christianity. Competitors will be motivated to study, articulate, and defend the core issues of their faith in a knowledgeable, sincere, gentle, and respectful manner. The focus may or may not be evangelistic.*

Apologetics Preparation Rules:

1. All questions/topics must come from the Apologetics Questions list on the main Speech Events page of the Stoa USA website.
2. Competitors prepare for Apologetics through Bible study, research, analysis, and organization.
3. Each competitor may create a card file with Scripture, definitions, quotations, and any other helpful material.
4. Competitors may not share card files during competition.

Apologetics Administration Rules: One judge in each room will be given the topics to distribute to the competitors and instructions regarding room administration.

1. A list of possible topics will be given to each of the judges in the room.
2. All questions/topics must come from the Apologetics Questions list on the Stoa USA website.
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 draws the first topic.
5. Timepiece must be **facing toward the competitor** and **counting down**. Local tournaments may still choose to give verbal countdown signals every thirty (30) seconds until four (4) minutes have elapsed.
6. During prep time, the competitor may, but is not required to; use a Bible, access card files, and/or write on additional note cards.
7. Unused preparation time may not be added to the speaking time.
8. Apologetics judges should be in agreement with Stoa's Statement of Faith.

Apologetics Presentation Rules:

1. The competitor must answer the topic selected and defend his/her position.
2. During the speech, the competitor may only hold note cards (no limit) and the chosen topic slip.
3. The speech must be the original work of the competitor and should be supported by Scripture, quotations, personal narratives, and/or analysis from outside sources (e.g. commentaries, literature, news articles, testimonials etc.).
4. The competitor must state the given topic early in the speech and adhere to it.
5. The question or topic should be approached from an apologetic perspective. It may or may not be an evangelistic opportunity.
6. The audience's acceptance of the truth of the Bible should not be assumed.
7. No computers, Kindles, iPods, cell phones, or other electronic media devices may be used for Apologetics preparation or presentation during the round.
8. No audio, visual aids, or props may be used.
9. Gratuitous vulgarity is strictly prohibited.
10. Competitors must not listen to other Apologetics competitors speaking before them.
11. Timepiece must be **facing toward the competitor** and **counting up**. Local tournaments may still choose to give hand signals every minute until six (6) minutes have elapsed.
12. Maximum speaking time is six (6) minutes. There is no minimum time requirement.
13. Competitors will receive a one (1) rank penalty for going over time by fifteen (15) seconds or more.

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