

Mars Hill

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 truths 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 desiring to encourage 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 Preparation 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 that is posted on the tournament registration website.
2. Competitors prepare for Mars Hill through research, analysis, and organization. Each competitor may create a binder with summaries of the topics and any other helpful material but not prewritten cards or speeches.
3. Competitors may not share binders during competition. Each competitor must have their own binder.
4. Topics for each individual round must be entirely from the list on the Stoa website or entirely from a list created by the tournament staff, not a combination of the two, ensuring all competitors have equal preparation advantage.
5. All proposed topics must be available to the competitors at the time of tournament registration.

Mars Hill Administration Rules:

1. One judge in each room will be given the topics to distribute to each competitor along with instructions regarding room administration.
2. All topics in the same round must be of the same category (i.e., “recent movies” “classic books,” etc.)
3. In the room, a competitor will draw three (3) single topics, 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. Unused preparation time may not be added to the speaking time.

Mars Hill Presentation Rules:

1. The competitor must answer the topic selected and show the correlation of the theme(s) character(s), plot, message, or worldview expressed in the cultural medium of the topic with Biblical truth.
2. The competitor may only use the single note card prepared during prep time and the drawn topic paper.
3. The competitor should not make assumption that the audience is 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 without prior knowledge of the Bible.
4. The content and delivery of the speech should foster a positive rapport with those who may not share the same faith, leaving the listener wanting to hear more.
5. No computers, Kindles, iPods, cell phones, or other electronic media devices may be used for Mars Hill preparation or presentation during the round.
6. No audio, visual aids, or props may be used.
7. Gratuitous vulgarity is strictly prohibited.
8. Competitors must not listen to other Mars Hill competitors speaking before them.
9. Timepiece **must be facing toward the competitor** with timepiece **counting up**. Local tournaments may still choose to give hand signals every minute until six (6) minutes have elapsed.
10. Maximum speaking time is six (6) minutes. There is no minimum time requirement.
11. 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.