

Persuasive

Description: *A Persuasive speech is a prepared speech written by the competitor which advocates a specific position or course of action.*

Goal: *To develop a winsome speaker who can state a clearly worded position supported by convincing arguments and well-researched support.*

Persuasive Preparation Rules:

1. The competitor may prepare a speech on any topic.
2. The purpose of the speech is to advocate a particular position or course of action with the goal of influencing the audience's opinion.
3. The speech must be an original work, written by the competitor.
4. A Persuasive speech may be used in multiple leagues during any given competitive season. However, if the competitor uses a speech topic in any competition in any venue, that competitor may not reuse it in subsequent years of competition.
5. The speech may be entered in only one event per tournament. The competitor may place the speech in a different event in subsequent tournaments.
6. The competitor may enter only one speech per event.
7. The competitor must provide a script and a citation page (if needed) at each tournament, along with the completed Platform Speech Script Submission Form. All sources must be **cited in text and orally within the speech**. Note: Electronic Script Submission is required at NITOC.
8. A maximum of 30% of the speech may consist of directly quoted material.

Persuasive Presentation Rules:

1. **All direct quotations and primary sources must be cited verbally** within the body of the speech. Use of another person's words or ideas without crediting them is plagiarism and is strictly forbidden.
2. The script must be memorized and delivered as written in the script. The competitor will receive a two (2) rank penalty for use of a written script or notes in competition.
3. No props, or audio, or visual aids may be used.
4. Gratuitous vulgarity is strictly prohibited.
5. Timepiece must be **facing toward the competitor and counting up**. Local tournaments may still choose to give hand signals every minute until ten (10) minutes have elapsed.
6. Maximum speaking time is ten (10) minutes. There is no minimum time requirement.
7. Competitors will receive a one (1) rank penalty for going over time by 15 seconds or more.

Speaking Time – ten (10) minutes.

Original Oratory

Description: *An Original Oratory is a prepared speech written by the competitor on a topic of the competitor's choice.*

Goal: *To develop a winsome, polished speaker who can present an engaging, well organized speech. The purpose of this informative speech is to explain, describe, or expose the topic.*

Original Oratory Preparation Rules:

1. The competitor may prepare a speech on any topic.
2. The speech may entertain, inspire, eulogize, or otherwise inform.
3. The speech must be an original work, written by the competitor.
4. An Original Oratory may be used in multiple leagues during any given competitive season. However, if the competitor uses a speech topic in any competition in any venue, that competitor may not reuse it in subsequent years of competition.
5. The speech may be entered in only one event per tournament. The competitor may place the speech in a different event in subsequent tournaments.
6. The competitor may enter only one speech per event.
7. The competitor must provide a script and a citation page (if needed) at each tournament, along with the completed Platform Speech Script Submission Form. All sources must be **cited in text and orally within the speech**. Note: Electronic Script Submission is required at NITOC.
8. A maximum of 30% of the speech may consist of directly quoted material.

Original Oratory Presentation Rules:

1. **All direct quotations and primary sources must be cited verbally** within the body of the speech. Use of another person's words or ideas without crediting them is plagiarism and is strictly forbidden.
2. The script must be memorized and delivered as written in the script. The competitors will receive a two (2) rank penalty for use of a written script or notes in competition.
3. No props, audio, or visual aids may be used.
4. Gratuitous vulgarity is strictly prohibited.
5. Timepiece must be **facing toward the competitor** and **counting up**. Local tournaments may still choose to give hand signals every minute until ten (10) minutes have elapsed.
6. Maximum speaking time is ten (10) minutes. There is no minimum time requirement.
7. Competitors will receive a one (1) rank penalty for going over time by 15 seconds or more.

Speaking Time – ten (10) minutes.

Open Interpretation

Description: *In Open Interpretation the competitor creates an original rendition from published works of literature or from a self-written piece. The presentation may range from dramatic to humorous genres, and it may include narrative storytelling, single voice monologues, or thematic compilations.*

Goal: *To select and analyze a piece, then bring to life through the creative use of voice, movement, and facial expression.*

Open Interpretation Preparation Rules:

1. Interpretive literature may come from a wide variety of sources including plays, prose, or poetry, but the selection(s) must be from **published** work(s) or be authored by the competitor. The selection must be in compliance with **Stoa Publication Guidelines**.
2. Media transcripts and blogs are not permitted. See **Stoa Publication Guidelines**.
3. The literature should be edited to fit the time limit.
4. The competitor may weave multiple sources together around a common theme.
5. There is no limit to the number of words added by the competitor or any restriction on how those words are used.
6. Dialogue from one character may be given to another character.
7. A competitor may use an interpretive selection in multiple leagues during any given competitive season. The selection may be entered in only one event per tournament (e.g., either Dramatic or Open but not both).
8. Once the competitor uses a selection (book, play, short story, etc.) in any competition in any venue, that competitor may not reuse any part of the published work in subsequent years of competition. The Bible is an exception to this rule.
9. The competitor may enter only one interpretive selection per event.
10. The competitor must provide a script and scanned pages used from original source(s) at each tournament. See **Script Submission Form**. Note: Electronic Script Submission is required at NITOC.

Open Interpretation Presentation Rules:

1. The competitor will receive a one (1) rank penalty for failure to cite the source(s). The author(s) and title(s) of the presentation must be introduced near the beginning of the piece even if it is an original piece written by the competitor. Adaptations must include the name of the original author as well as the names of all other contributing authors.
2. No audio or visual aids or props may be used.
3. Only feet are permitted to touch the floor at any time.
4. Gratuitous vulgarity is strictly prohibited.
5. This is a speech event but some singing and dancing are permitted as appropriate to the piece.
6. The script must be memorized and delivered as written in the script. The competitor will receive a two (2) rank penalty for use of a written script or notes in competition.
7. 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.
8. Maximum speaking time is six (6) minutes. There is no minimum time limit.
9. Competitors will receive a one (1) rank penalty for going over time by 15 seconds or more.

Speaking time – six (6) minutes.

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 parental consent due to some mature themes.*

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. During preparation time, 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. During presentation, the 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.

Humorous Interpretation

Description: *In Humorous Interpretation the competitor creates an original rendition of a relatable story from a single published work of literature using humor to connect with the audience. Stand-up comedy or telling a series of jokes without a corresponding plot is not Humorous Interpretation.*

Goal: *To select and analyze literature, then bring it to life through the creative use of voice, movement, and facial expression. The story should be conveyed humorously using plot, character development and comedic timing.*

Humorous Interpretation Preparation Rules:

1. Interpretive literature may come from a variety of genres including plays, prose, or poetry but the selection must be from a single **published** work, and it may not be authored by the competitor. The selection must be in compliance with **Stoa Publication Guidelines**.
2. Media transcripts and blogs are not permitted. See **Stoa Publication Guidelines**.
3. The literature should be edited to fit the time limit.
4. A maximum of 150 words may be added for any purpose including but not limited to introductions and transitions. Joining together disconnected words from the source to create new thoughts or ideas are counted as added words.
5. The competitor may quote material external to the piece in the introduction only and must cite the source verbally. This material must be counted as part of the 150 added words.
6. Changes to pronouns, verb tenses, and character names are allowed and not counted as added words. The title and author are not counted as added words.
7. Dialogue from one character may be given to another character.
8. A competitor may use an interpretive selection in multiple leagues during any given competitive season. The selection may be entered in only one event per tournament (e.g., either Humorous or Open but not both).
9. Once the competitor uses a selection (book, play, short story, etc.) in any competition in any venue, that competitor may not reuse any part of the published work in subsequent years of competition. The Bible is an exception to this rule.
10. The competitor may enter only one interpretive selection per event.
11. The competitor must provide a script and scanned/photocopied pages used from the original source at each tournament. See **Script Submission Form**. Note: Electronic Script Submission is required at NITOC.

Humorous Interpretation Presentation Rules:

1. The competitor must identify the title and author near the beginning of the piece. The competitor will receive a one (1) rank penalty for failure to cite the source.
2. No audio or visual aids or props may be used.
3. Only feet are permitted to touch the floor at any time.
4. Gratuitous vulgarity is strictly prohibited.
5. This is a speech event but some singing and dancing are permitted as appropriate to the piece.
6. The script must be memorized and delivered as written in the script. The competitor will receive a two (2) rank penalty for use of a written script or notes in competition.
7. Timepiece must be **facing toward the competitor and counting up**. Local tournaments may still choose to give hand signals every minute until ten (10) minutes have elapsed.
8. Maximum speaking time is ten (10) minutes. There is no minimum time limit.
9. Competitors will receive a one (1) rank penalty for going over time by 15 seconds or more.

Speaking time – ten (10) minutes.

Extemporaneous

Description: In Extemporaneous speaking, the competitor answers a given question based on recent events in the news. The competitor researches national and international current events and may create reference files of newsworthy information. Extemporaneous speech should be regarded as a demonstration of personal knowledge on the topic, as well as an original synthesis of numerous sources.

Goal: To develop a well-informed student who can critically evaluate current issues by expressing his/her position on a given question. The speech should be delivered with credible, pertinent, and sufficient evidence to support his/her position on the topic.

Extemporaneous Preparation Rules:

1. In Extemporaneous speaking the competitor, alone or as part of a club, prepares by researching national and international current events and may create reference files of newsworthy information which may be stored and organized on hard copies in file boxes or electronically.
2. The speech must be an original work, prepared during the Extemporaneous Preparation time. Competitors may not bring pre-written speeches or outlines into the Extemporaneous Preparation Room.
3. Use of the Internet or accessing information located outside the Extemp Preparation Room during the round is forbidden.
4. Each competitor must do his/her own work and must not talk to others or access information for the speech before or after leaving the Extemp Preparation Room.
5. Competitors may not use cell phones or any other electronic devices to contact anyone during Extemp Preparation time or before presenting their speech.

Extemporaneous Administration Rules:

1. Competitors should arrive at the Extemp Preparation Room at the beginning of their posted preparation time.
2. Competitors may not be in the Extemp Preparation Room during the round except during their own preparation time.
3. Tardiness will not extend Extemp Preparation time. If a competitor is late to the Extemp Prep Room, they will have less time to prepare their speech in order to speak on schedule.
4. In the Extemp Preparation Room, the competitor will receive a set of three (3) topic questions which he/she may keep.
5. Competitors have thirty (30) minutes to prepare a seven (7) minute speech **and arrive at their competition room.**
Competitors are responsible for arriving at the competition room by the required speaking time.
6. Competitors are responsible for the security of their electronic equipment and file boxes.
7. Tournaments are not required nor expected to provide power sources for electronic devices.
8. All file boxes and/or electronic devices must be labeled with the name of the competitor and club.
9. A competitor must not use another competitor's or club's files without the permission of the coach or parent of the loaning competitor. This permission must be submitted to the Extemp Room Proctor before the competitor uses the files. If computers are shared, open files must be closed before use by others. If hard copies are shared, they must be re-filed before given to another competitor.
10. Competitors are responsible to know and abide by the Stoa Extemp Preparation Room Protocol.
11. A list of possible topics will be given to each of the judge(s) in the competition room.

Extemporaneous Presentation Rules:

1. Speakers are timed to speak every 10 minutes. Tournaments will post competitor preparation times and speaking times.
2. The competitor must state the given question early in the speech and adhere to the question posed. He/she will take a position on that question and support that position with analysis and outside evidence.
3. Nothing may be used during the competitor's speech other than one 3" x 5" card and topic paper.
4. No audio or visual aids or props may be used during speech presentation.
5. Gratuitous vulgarity is strictly prohibited.
6. Competitors may not listen to other Extemporaneous competitors speaking before them.
7. Timepiece must be **facing toward the competitor and counting up.** Local tournaments may still choose to give hand signals every minute until seven (7) minutes have elapsed.
8. Maximum speaking time is seven (7) minutes. There is no minimum time requirement.
9. Competitors will receive a one (1) rank penalty for going over time by fifteen (15) seconds or more.

Preparation time – thirty (30) minutes. Speaking time – seven (7) minutes.

Expository

Description: *An Expository speech is a prepared speech written by the competitor, which explains and illustrates a topic through both words and visuals (e.g. illustrated boards, physical props, digital and electronic presentations, or any combination).*

Goal: *To develop a winsome, polished speaker who has learned to constructively use chosen media to enhance the topic.*

Expository Preparation Rules:

1. The competitor may prepare a speech on any topic.
2. The primary purpose of the speech is to inform, but it may also persuade, entertain, or fulfill another function.
3. The speech must be an original work, written by the competitor.
4. An Expository speech may be used in multiple leagues during any given competitive season. However, if the competitor uses a speech topic in any competition in any venue, that competitor may not reuse it in subsequent years of competition.
5. The speech may be entered in only one event per tournament. The competitor may place the speech in a different event in subsequent tournaments.
6. The competitor may enter only one speech per event.
7. The competitor must provide a script and a citation page (if needed) at each tournament, along with the completed Platform Speech Script Submission Form. All sources must be **cited in text and orally within the speech**. Note: Electronic Script Submission is required at NITOC.
8. Copyrighted images must also be cited on the final citation page but need not be cited orally or in text.
9. A maximum of 30% of the speech may consist of directly quoted material.

Expository Presentation Rules:

1. **All direct quotations and primary sources must be cited verbally** within the body of the speech. Use of another person's words or ideas without crediting them is plagiarism and strictly forbidden.
2. The script must be memorized and delivered as written in the script. No scripts or notes may be referred to in competition rounds. Competitors will receive a two (2) rank penalty for use of a script or notes in competition.
3. Audio/Visual aids and effects may be used.
4. Computers may be used.
5. **Tournaments shall provide access to power outlet in presentation rooms.**
6. All props and equipment needed for the speech must be **provided by the competitor**.
(e.g., projectors, screens, power cords, etc.).
7. Each speaker has approximately two minutes for setup.
8. Any special clothing related to the speech may only be put on or displayed during the course of the speech.
9. The presentation area must be left in the same condition as it was prior to the speech.
10. Due to likely restrictions at tournament facilities and liability concerns (including NITOC), use of weapons (ie; guns, knives, swords), explosives, or incendiary devices is prohibited. This includes the use of food preparation knives of any material.
11. Nothing may be distributed or offered to the judges or audience members.
12. People and live animals may not be used as aides in the speech.
13. Gratuitous vulgarity is strictly prohibited.
14. Timepiece must be **facing toward the competitor and counting up**. Local tournaments may still choose to give hand signals every minute until ten (10) minutes have elapsed.
15. Maximum speaking time is ten (10) minutes. There is no minimum time requirement.
16. Competitors will receive a one (1) rank penalty for going over time by 15 seconds or more.

Speaking Time – ten (10) minutes.

Duo Interpretation

Description: *In Duo Interpretation two competitors create an original rendition of a relatable story from one or more published work(s) of literature with a focus on plot and character development which captivates and moves the audience. Stand-up comedy or telling a series of jokes without a corresponding plot is not Duo Interpretation.*

Goal: *To select and analyze literature, then bring it to life through creative use of voice, facial expression, and movement without interacting face-to-face.*

Duo Interpretation Preparation Rules:

1. Interpretive literature may come from a variety of genres including plays, prose, or poetry, but the selection(s) must be from **published** work(s) and may not be authored by the competitor. The selection must be in compliance with **Stoa Publication Guidelines**.
2. Media Transcripts and blogs are not permitted. See **Stoa Publication Guidelines**.
3. Literature should be edited to fit the time limit.
4. The competitor may weave multiple sources together around a common theme.
5. A maximum of 150 words may be added for any purpose including but not limited to introductions and transitions. Joining together disconnected words from the source to create new thoughts or ideas are counted as added words.
6. Changes to pronouns, verb tenses, and character names are allowed and not counted as added words. The title and author are not counted as added words.
7. Dialogue from one character may be given to another character.
8. A competitor may use an interpretive selection in multiple leagues during any given competitive season. The selection may be entered in only one event per tournament (e.g., either Duo or Open but not both).
9. Once the competitor uses a selection (book, play, short story, etc.) in any competition in any venue, that competitor may not reuse any part of the published work in subsequent years of competition. The Bible is an exception to this rule.
10. The competitor may enter only one interpretive selection per event.
11. The competitor must provide a script and scanned/photocopied pages used from original source(s) at each tournament. See **Script Submission Form**. Note: Electronic Script Submission is required at NITOC.

Duo Interpretation Presentation Rules:

1. The competitors must identify the title(s) and author(s) near the beginning of the piece. The competitors will receive a one (1) rank penalty for failure to cite the source(s).
2. The selection should provide a balanced performance between the two competitors.
3. The competitors may not look at each other, touch each other, or interact face-to-face.
4. No audio or visual aids or props may be used.
5. Only feet are permitted to touch the floor at any time.
6. Gratuitous vulgarity is strictly prohibited.
7. This is a speech event but some singing and dancing are permitted as appropriate to the piece.
8. The script must be memorized and delivered as written in the script. The competitor will receive a two (2) rank penalty for use of a written script or notes in competition.
9. Timepiece must be **facing toward the competitor** and **counting up**. Local tournaments may still choose to give hand signals every minute until ten (10) minutes have elapsed.
10. Maximum speaking time is ten (10) minutes. There is no minimum time limit.
11. Competitors will receive a one (1) rank penalty for going over time by 15 seconds or more.

Speaking time – ten (10) minutes.

Dramatic Interpretation

Description: *In Dramatic Interpretation the competitor creates an original rendition of a relatable story from a single published work of literature with a focus on plot and character development which captivates and moves the audience.*

Goal: *To select and analyze literature, then bring it to life through the creative use of voice, movement, and facial expression. Competitors should portray a realistic, varied emotional journey of a character(s) which may or may not be tragic.*

Dramatic Interpretation Preparation Rules:

1. Interpretive literature may come from a variety of genres including plays, prose, or poetry but the selection must be from a single **published** work, and it may not be authored by the competitor. The selection must be in compliance with **Stoa Publication Guidelines**.
2. Media transcripts and blogs are not permitted. See **Stoa Publication Guidelines**.
3. The literature should be edited to fit the time limit.
4. A maximum of 150 words may be added for any purpose including but not limited to introductions and transitions. Joining together disconnected words from the source to create new thoughts or ideas are counted as added words.
5. The competitor may quote material external to the piece in the introduction only and must cite the source verbally. This material must be counted as part of the 150 added words.
6. Changes to pronouns, verb tenses, and character names are allowed and not counted as added words. The title and author are not counted as added words.
7. Dialogue from one character may be given to another character.
8. A competitor may use an interpretive selection in multiple leagues during any given competitive season. The selection may be entered in only one event per tournament (e.g., either Dramatic or Open but not both).
9. Once the competitor uses a selection (book, play, short story, etc.) in any competition in any venue, that competitor may not reuse any part of the published work in subsequent years of competition. The Bible is an exception to this rule.
10. The competitor may enter only one interpretive selection per event.
11. The competitor must provide a script and scanned/photocopied pages used from the original source at each tournament. See **Script Submission Form**. Note: Electronic Script Submission is required at NITOC.

Dramatic Interpretation Presentation Rules:

1. The competitor must identify the title and author near the beginning of the piece. The competitor will receive a one (1) rank penalty for failure to cite the source.
2. No audio or visual aids or props may be used.
3. Only feet are permitted to touch the floor at any time.
4. Gratuitous vulgarity is strictly prohibited.
5. This is a speech event but some singing and dancing are permitted as appropriate to the piece.
6. The script must be memorized and delivered as written in the script. The competitor will receive a two (2) rank penalty for use of a written script or notes in competition.
7. Timepiece must be **facing toward the competitor and counting up**. Local tournaments may still choose to give hand signals every minute until ten (10) minutes have elapsed.
8. Maximum speaking time is ten (10) minutes. There is no minimum time limit.
9. Competitors will receive a one (1) rank penalty for going over time by 15 seconds or more.

Speaking time – ten (10) minutes.

Demonstration

Description: *A Demonstration speech is an original work written by the competitor that explains how to do something or how something works. Props may or may not be used.*

Goal: *To develop a winsome, polished speaker who can present a speech demonstrating a process. The speech must be instructive and present information in a well-organized and clear manner.*

Demonstration Preparation Rules:

1. The competitor may prepare a speech on any instructional topic.
2. The speech must be an original work, prepared by the competitor and the speaker must demonstrate a process and/or physical activity.
3. The speech is scripted but minor adaptations may be made to connect with the audience during delivery.
4. The demonstration speech may be presented in multiple leagues during any given competitive season. It may be entered in only one event per tournament. The competitor may place the speech in a different event in subsequent tournaments.
5. The competitor may enter only one demonstration speech per tournament.
6. The competitor must provide a script and a citation page (if needed) at each tournament, along with the completed Platform Speech Script Submission Form. All sources must be **cited in text and orally within the speech**. Note: Electronic Script Submission is required at NITOC.
7. Copyrighted images must also be cited on the final citation page but need not be cited orally.
8. A maximum of 30% of the speech may consist of directly quoted material.

Demonstration Presentation Rules:

1. **All direct quotations and primary sources must be cited verbally** within the body of the speech. Use of another person's words or ideas without crediting them is plagiarism and is strictly forbidden.
2. No written scripts or notes may be referred to in competition rounds. Competitors will receive a two (2) rank penalty for use of a script or notes in competition.
3. Props may be used to demonstrate the task or process.
4. Audio, visual aids, and effects may be used.
5. Computers and electronic devices may be used.
6. Tournaments shall provide access to power outlet in presentation rooms.
7. All props and equipment needed for the speech must be provided by the competitor.
8. Each speaker has approximately two minutes for setup.
9. Any special clothing related to the demonstration may only be put on or displayed during the speech.
10. The presentation area must be left in the same condition as it was prior to the speech.
11. Due to likely restrictions at tournament facilities and liability concerns for tournaments (including NITOC), use of weapons (ie; guns, knives, swords), explosives, or incendiary devices is prohibited. This would include the use of food preparation knives of any material.
12. Nothing may be distributed or offered to the judges or audience members.
13. People and live animals may not be used as aides in the speech.
14. Gratuitous vulgarity is strictly prohibited.
15. Timepiece must be **facing toward the competitor and counting up**. Local tournaments may still choose to give hand signals every minute until seven (7) minutes have elapsed.
16. Maximum speaking time is seven (7) minutes. There is no minimum time limit.
17. Competitors will receive a one (1) rank penalty for going over time by 15 seconds or more.

Speaking Time – Seven (7) minutes.

Apologetics

Description: *The competitor is given four (4) minutes to prepare a persuasive and reasoned speech that defends a tenet of the Christian faith.*

Goal: *Competitors will be motivated to study, articulate, and defend the core issues of their faith in a knowledgeable, sincere, and respectful manner. The focus may or may not be evangelistic. Content is key. More weight should be given to the speech content, rather than the presentation style.*

Apologetics Preparation Rules:

1. All questions/topics must come from the Apologetics Questions list on the Stoa 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:

1. One judge in each room will be given room administration instructions, including topic distribution.
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 draws the first topic.
5. During preparation time, 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. During presentation, the 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.