



Executive Summary

Speech Event Changes for 2018-2019

This summary of revisions to ballots and rules for 2018-2019 is intended to help coaches and competitors easily note event changes. All coaches and competitors should still thoroughly read the actual ballots and rules to be familiar with the actual language.

1. **Apologetics**
 - a. Rules are modified to add to the event goal, *“Content is key. More weight should be given to the speech content, rather than the presentation style.”*
 - b. Ballot is modified to reinstate two criteria from previous years:
 - i. *“Provides researched defense of Biblical truth.”*
 - ii. *“Demonstrates understanding of theological issues.”*
 - c. Two questions were added, and two questions were retired. See list.
2. **Stoa Publication Guidelines** - Descriptions of unacceptable sources for interpretive speeches, including blogs and media transcripts, are more clearly explained and defined.
3. **Open Interpretation** - Rules are modified to state, *“Selection(s) must be from published work(s) or be authored by the competitor. The selection must be in compliance with Stoa Publication Guidelines.”* Unpublished work(s), if not authored by the competitor, will not be accepted as source material.
4. **Expository Speaking** - Removed rule that stated, *“The competitor must set up props without any assistance.”* This change was made in the 2017-2018 season, but was it unintentionally excluded from the 2017 Executive Summary of Changes.
5. **Mars Hill Impromptu** - 15 new topics added, and 15 topics retired. See list.

New Tournament Speech Tools

1. Script Submission
 - [Rapid Review & Approve](#) – competitor tutorial
 - [Review Training](#) – reviewer tutorial
 - [E-Submission Toolkit](#) - e-script submission coordinator how-to
2. Ballot Return - [Penalty Re-ranking tutorial](#)
3. [Speech Judge Orientation video](#)
4. [Interpretation - Why, Where & How video](#)