



Executive Summary

Speech Event Changes for 2019-2020

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** - Eight questions were added and eight questions were retired. See list. New questions are indicated by asterisks (**). Only minor corrections and clarifications were made to the rules and ballots.
2. **Mars Hill** - 30 new topics added, and 30 topics were topics retired. Two category titles changed. Myths and Legends was added as a sub-category to the 2019-2020 season as a recommendation from the Mars Hill Committee. Because myths form the deepest baseline of a civilization, studying them gives students the opportunity to explore the values and expressions of other cultures besides our own. See list. New topics are indicated by an asterisk (*). Only minor corrections and clarifications were made to the rules and ballots.
3. **Platform and Interpretative events** - Only minor corrections and clarifications were made to the rules and ballots.
4. **Extemporaneous** - The use of “published articles, reference works, facts, and data” was added to the rules. Other minor wording clarifications were made to the rules and ballot. The rules were reorganized for better clarity.
5. **The new wildcard: Oratory Analysis** - A new ballot and rules were released. This is a unique educational event with a proven track record. Students must analyze a great speech, understanding the context, the speaker, and the rhetorical elements that made it great. They also learn the importance of understanding an oration in the context of the original audience and culture which surrounds it along with insight into the historical speaker. Ideally, competitors will transfer that information to their own speech writing, and we will see growth in the quality of the speeches presented in competition in the future.
6. **Room Administration documents** - A sentence was added: “Confirm any required penalties (see ballot) with the other judges before leaving the competition room at the end of the round.” Other minor edits were also made to the room administration documents.