



## The Christian School Speech & Debate League

*A Ministry of the Institute for Principle Studies*

### OFFICIAL APOLOGETICS SPEECH RULES

#### I. Format:

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

#### II. Goal:

Competitors will be encouraged to study, articulate, and defend the core foundations of Christianity in a knowledgeable, sincere, and respectful manner, as expressed in *1 Peter 3:15*. The focus may or may not be evangelistic. Content will be weighed greater than presentation and delivery.

#### III. Preparation Rules:

- A. In advance of competition, each competitor may create a card file with index cards no larger than 4" X 6". These cards may contain: Scripture, definitions, quotations, and any other pre-researched material.
- B. Competitors may not share card files during competition.

#### IV. General Apologetics Rules for the Tournament:

- A. All topics must come from the Apologetics Questions list on the LFA website.
- B. Apologetics judges should be in agreement with LFA's Statement of Faith.
- C. One judge in each room will be given room administration instructions, including topic distribution.
- D. A list of possible topics will be given to each of the judges in the room.
- E. Preparation time begins as soon as the competitor draws the first topic.
- F. During prep time, the competitor may not use electronic devices or media.
- G. During prep time, the student may use a Bible, and pre-prepared index cards.
- H. During prep time, students may create additional index cards with outlines or notes to use during the speech.
- I. Unused preparation time may not be added to the speaking time.

## V. Apologetics Presentation Rules:

- A. The competitor must include the topic of the speech early in the presentation.
- B. If the topic asks a question, the competitor should answer that question at some point during the speech and much of the speech should be devoted to defending this answer.
- C. During the speech, the competitor may only hold and/or access the following materials:
  - \* A bible
  - \* Note cards (no limit)
  - \* The chosen topic slip.
- D. The speech should be extemporaneous in nature and must be the original work of the competitor.
- E. Students should support their positions with Scripture, quotations, personal narratives, and/or analysis from outside sources (e.g. commentaries, literature, news articles, testimonials, etc.).
- F. The speech should approach the topic from an apologetic perspective. It may or may not be an evangelistic opportunity.
- G. No electronic devices (computers, cell phones, etc.) may be used for preparation or presentation during the round.
- H. Audio recordings, props and visual aids may not be used during the round.
  - I. Competitors must not listen to other competitors who speak prior to their speech.
  - J. Maximum speaking time is six (6) minutes. There is no minimum time requirement.

## VI. Dress Code

- A. Competitors dress must be both modest and professional. This includes, but not limited to:
  - 1. GENTLEMEN: Should wear collared shirts and ties, sport coats or suits, with dress shoes.
  - 2. LADIES: Should wear dresses, skirts or suits, with dress shoes. Skirt length should cover the knees when standing. Tops should be of modest height.

## VII. Disciplinary Action

In the event there is an infraction of the rules, the tournament director should be notified. The tournament director may review the case and make a decision based on the circumstances. Disciplinary options may include a warning, the loss of the round where the infraction occurred, or removal from the tournament.

**Preparation time - four (4) minutes. Speaking time - six (6) minutes.**

Revised 08/30/19