



*Apologetics is a limited preparation event in which the speaker is given four minutes to prepare a six-minute speech on a topic related to articulating his or her Christian faith.*

## **APOLOGETICS EVENT RULES**

- The speech must be an original work, from notes, quotations, and/or verses from the Bible. The speaker must speak on one of the topics drawn.
- The goal of Apologetics is to motivate students to study the core issues of their faith and be prepared to articulate a defense of what they believe.
- All judges for this event must be sympathetic to the NCFCA Mission Statement and Statement of Faith.
- Topics must be taken from those available and posted on the NCFCA website. Each round's topics must come from a single category, and should consist of a combination of definitions, questions, and statements from that category. At the National Championship, any out round may consist of a combination of categories.
- All judges will have a list of topics for the round.
- Each speech should be evaluated on the quality of the analysis and presentation, not the opinions presented. Speakers are permitted to express opinions that are contrary to those of the judge.
- A judge in each room will have the envelope of topics for the round. The judge will remove the topics from the envelope and place them face down on the table. The speaker will draw three topics, choose one, and return the other two. Prep time begins when student draws the first topic. The speaker may keep all three topics during their prep time. The speaker may take his chosen topic out of the room at the end of his speech, but may not disclose the speech topic to other individuals until the round is over.
- During prep time speakers may use only Bibles and previously prepared 4x6 cards from their file box(s), and may write notes on additional 4x6 cards. No outside sources may be brought into the room other than a Bible, previously prepared 4x6 cards, and blank 4x6 cards.
- Computers, phones or other electronic devices may not be used during prep time.
- Speakers must only use their own individual file box during a tournament.
- Speakers may come into the event with as much preparation, research, and topic organization as they desire.
- Speakers are not required to present the Gospel message during their speech.
- Outside sources must be mentioned in the verbal delivery of the speech. Outside sources refers to direct quotations, theories, concepts and general ideas.

- During their presentation, speakers may only hold the topic paper, the 4x6 note cards from their file box(s) and 4x6 note cards written during prep time. The speaker is not allowed to hold their Bible during the presentation.
- The speaker must state the chosen topic early in the speech. A one rank penalty is required for failure to do so.
- The chosen topic must be the central theme of the speech and not peripheral to it. A one rank penalty is required for failure to adhere to the chosen topic.
- Humor and satire are permitted.
- Gratuitous vulgarity is not allowed. Gratuitous vulgarity refers to vulgar, obscene, or profane language or gestures that are included for shock value.
- Props and audiovisuals are not allowed. This refers to any physical item that might be used to animate or illustrate the speech.
- Only feet are permitted to touch the floor at any time.
- Speakers may not listen to other Apologetics speakers before speaking themselves. They may remain in the room after giving their speech. Speakers will not disclose the topics to other individuals until after the round has finished.
- Unused preparation time may not be added to the speaking time.
- Time limit: 4-minute preparation time; 6-minute maximum speaking time; no minimum time.