



## CCofSE Official Description of Impromptu Apologetics

### **WHAT ARE “LIMITED PREPARATION” SPEECH EVENTS?**

Limited preparation speech events are events in which the competitors are given a question or quotation, and based on this, prepare their speeches on-site just prior to presenting them within an allowable time frame to the judge(s).

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### **WHAT IS IMPROMPTU APOLOGETICS SPEAKING?**

Impromptu Apologetics is a limited preparation event. In advance of the tournament, the competitors will be given general topics for study. Students will study these subjects, identifying probable challenges and the best apologetic response. The general topical field will be sufficiently restrictive so as to permit the student to study the topics to a meaningful depth. During competition, at the appointed speaking time, a topic based upon the general area of study will be given to the competitor by the judge. The competitor will have a four-minute prep time during which he will prepare a speech on the given topic.

### **THE PURPOSE OF IMPROMPTU APOLOGETICS**

Christians have been charged with the responsibility to be a light in a dark world. Often during a conversation, a topic is raised that becomes a launch pad for sharing biblical truth with an unbeliever. These unplanned opportunities are usually “impromptu” in nature: there is no time for preparation of a speech—rather, the situation calls for a prepared individual.

Impromptu Apologetics is designed to prepare the student to be ready to give an answer when such opportunities arise, and to do so with humility and respect. They also will have the opportunity to learn of the common issues that may be offered up as challenges to Christianity, and learn how to rebut such challenges with logical, well-reasoned and supported viewpoints. Along with this intellectual knowledge, his own faith will be strengthened as he learns that there are logical answers to such common challenges. Further, as he presents such explanations, his ability to articulate his beliefs and the reason behind them will prepare him for a life where such challenges are common opportunities for meaningful dialogue with others.

### **IMPROMPTU APOLOGETICS SPEECH FORMAT**

Each speech must be a unique, original work in which the speaker should adhere to the chosen topic and state it word for word early in the speech. The speaker may approach the topic in any way he or she chooses but the topic must be the central theme of the speech and not peripheral to it. The use of an index card for notes should not distract from the presentation.

A quality speech will reference experts in the area of apologetics and will quote from the Bible. The competitor should direct his presentation as if the impromptu question that he received was to a person who is asking questions seeking to understand Christianity. With this audience in mind, the competitor should explain concepts, definitions, and ideas in a simple, winsome way.

### **IMPROMPTU APOLOGETICS TOPICS**

The topic will be the same for all IA competitors in a given round. This could be either a quote or question from one of the categories posted on the website. The Speech Committee will provide the topics for all the two-day tournaments. Students may express opinions that are contrary to those of the judge. Each speech should be evaluated on the quality of the analysis and presentation, not the opinions presented.



**Academically-focused**

**Christ-centered**

**Family-oriented**





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No IA competitor is permitted to listen to other IA presentations before speaking in the round. Competitors, coaches, and audience members shall not discuss the IA topic with anyone until after the completion of the round, including those competing at concurrent tournaments. Observers of any violation of this standard should notify the Tournament Director. Violators will be subject to disqualification in IA.

### **USING IMPROMPTU PREP TIME**

Competitors will learn the topic for the round in the competition room. The four minute preparation time will begin when the judge reveals the topic. During the prep time, participants may reference their allowed 3 X 5 box with previously prepared quotes, verses and notes, and a Bible they bring, but may not use computers.

### **TIME LIMIT**

Time begins when the speaker begins speaking and ends when the speaker has finished speaking. Maximum speech length for varsity competitors is 6 minutes total, with 4 minutes prep time. There is no minimum time requirement.

### **IMPROMPTU APOLOGETICS SPEECH GUIDELINES**

- The competitor is permitted a Bible to reference during the four-minute preparation time.
- One 3 X 5 file box may be brought to the tournament for reference during the preparation time.
- The competitor shall be allowed to use both sides of a single blank 3" x 5" note card for note-taking.
- The single 3" x 5" card may be used for reference during the speech.
- The competitor shall adhere to the topic given, stating it word for word early in the speech.
- At least one source of support other than the Bible shall be referenced by the competitor.
- The competitor shall cite at least one biblical reference.
- Visual aids shall be prohibited.

