



# Official Description of Mars Hill Impromptu

## WHAT ARE “LIMITED PREPARATION” SPEECH EVENTS?

Limited preparation speech events are events in which a competitor is given a limited time to prepare their speech on-site just prior to presenting it within an allowable time frame to the judge(s).

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## WHAT IS MARS HILL IMPROMPTU?

Mars Hill Impromptu is a limited preparation event. The competitor uses books, movies, and other genre to discuss the appeal and impact of the theme(s) within the topic, holding them up in light of Christian truth found in the Bible.

## THE PURPOSE OF MARS HILL IMPROMPTU

Christians have been charged with the responsibility to be a light in a dark world. To be a light in this way will require that speakers first know something about the culture in which they live. The student learns to identify truths common to the human condition within popular culture, using those truths to find common ground. The competitor will discuss Christian truths on a conversational, personal level desiring to encourage ongoing conversation of spiritual truth.

## SPEECH FORMAT

There is flexibility as to how this speech can be structured, however the goals of the speech naturally create some parameters which should direct the construction. This speech is intended to be for a non-believing audience. As such:

- There should be a minimal amount of religious terminology. Religious concepts should be fully explained in every-day, conversational language.
- The speech should gradually shift from talking about the cultural topic towards a discussion of the spiritual truths, recognizing the likelihood of some skepticism on the part of the audience and therefore wanting to build a rapport with the audience prior to introducing the possibly controversial religious themes.
- Familiarity with the scriptures should not be assumed. Any biblically referenced stories, illustrations, or examples should be explained in enough depth to make the intended application understood by an individual with no prior knowledge of the Bible.
- Sincerity, humility, and graciousness should be evidenced in the speech’s content and delivery. A helpful way to ensure this is to consider a real-life, non-believing friend with whom you would like to have the opportunity to share your beliefs. How would you convey your message to that individual in order to help ensure it is well received in a way that does not damage your relationship and is given serious consideration?

## MARS HILL IMPROMPTU TOPICS

A list of possible topics and topic categories will be posted on the CCofSE website. A list specific to each tournament will be posted at the time of registration. Competitors can prepare through research, analysis, and organization. Each competitor may create a binder with summaries of the topics and any other helpful material but not prewritten cards or speeches. Competitors may not share binders during competition.



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## USING PREP TIME

Competitors will draw three topics from an envelope. The four minute preparation time will begin when the topics are drawn. The student will choose one topic and return the other two to the envelope. During prep time, participants may reference their allowed binder of previously organized research and analysis. No electronic devices are allowed.

## TIME LIMIT

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

## MARS HILL IMPROMPTU GUIDELINES

- Competitors are not allowed to watch students speaking before them.
- Each competitor may bring one binder to the tournament for reference during the preparation time. Binders shall not be shared during the tournament.
- The competitor is allowed to use both sides of a single blank 3"x5" note card for note taking.
- The single 3"x5" note card may be used for reference during the speech.
- The competitor shall adhere to the topic given and show correlation with Biblical truth.
- Electronic devices are prohibited for preparation or presentation.

## As for all CCofSE "Limited Preparation" speech events:

- The presentation must be confined to the front and center of the presentation space.
- Only feet are permitted to touch the floor at any time.
- The use of facial expression, vocal variety and appropriate gestures is encouraged.
- Physical movement, such as taking steps while speaking, should be limited to the center of the presentation space.
- Humor and satire are permitted. Vulgarity, racial slurs and inappropriate humor are not allowed.
- The participant will be penalized for going over the time limit.
- No props, costumes, or audiovisuals may be used.
- The delivery of the speech should be enthusiastic, direct, sincere, and communicative, using good vocal variety, clear enunciation, fluency, and appealing to the interests of the audience.
- All directly quoted and/or paraphrased material must be properly referenced in the speech.



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