

## **Apologetics Rules (ages 12-18 as of Oct. 1st)**

Students will compete in 2 rounds of Apologetics. Those with the best scores will move on to finals (3rd round). More weight is given to content than presentational style.

1. Students can prepare speeches on notecards (no larger than 4x6) ahead of time and use the notecards during the speech. It is recommended to keep the notecards in a photo album labeled with the student's name and phone number.
2. Competitors may not share notecards during a tournament.
3. Each student will bring a small personal timer to use for prep time and speaking.
4. At the tournament, after taking 2 topic slips, competitors will start a personal timer counting down from 2:00 for prep time. If both topic slips are the same, the competitor will give a speech on that topic.
5. The student may use prepared Apologetics notecards, blank notecards, pens/pencils, and a Bible to prepare for the speech during the 2 minutes of prep time in the room.
6. Competitors must show the timer (set at 00:00) to the judges before starting the speech and after turning off the timer at the end of the speech. Competitors will start the timer at the beginning of the speech and place the timer on a judge's table/desk facing the competitor. When finished with the speech, the competitor will stop the timer, announce the time, and show the time displayed.
7. During the speech, the competitor may only hold note cards and the topic slip.
8. When quoting information, the source must be cited verbally during the speech.
9. The speech should be geared toward those curious about Christianity. It may or may not be an evangelistic opportunity. The focus should be on answering the question, not necessarily sharing the Gospel.
10. The competitor should focus eye contact on the judges, not the audience.
11. The maximum speaking time is 6 minutes. There is no minimum time requirement.
12. Competitors will be ranked one place lower by judges for going overtime by 15 seconds or more.
13. Competitors may not listen to other Apologetics students speaking before them in a round.

## **Apologetics Topics for Freedom of Speech Tournament 2026-2027**

1. What is the Gospel?
2. Why is it important that Jesus Christ is both fully God and fully man?
3. What is the grace of God? Why is it important?
4. Is there historical evidence for the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus? Why is this important?
5. Can a person do enough good in their life to go to heaven?