

This document provides competitor standards for Individual Events (IE) conducted by the Christian Communicators of America (CCA). These are standards, not recommendations or suggestions. They are rules which all participants are expected to follow.

User Guide

Competitors, coaches, and parents must be aware of all rules regarding each Individual Event in which they or their competitors will be participating. This requires reading the Standards for All Individual Events, the General Standards for the event's overall genre, the applicable Event Specific Standards, and any related Glossary terms. It also requires reading the separate *Judge Instructions* and *Ballot* documents for the event. Once familiar with these documents, reviewing the helpful suggestions in the *Coaching Tips* document is recommended.

All Individual Events for the years 2026-2029 are included in this document. (See *IE Four Year Rotation 2026-2029* document for the anticipated schedule of events.) Events for the 2026 tournament season are underlined in ***Red*** in the Event Specific Standards sections below.

STANDARDS FOR ALL EVENTS

Biblical Foundation

For virtually every topic, viewpoints are held that contradict the principles of the Word of God, some overtly secular or blatantly sinful. All topics may instead be approached from a biblical perspective where truth is upheld. An overtly Christian message is not required for CCA events other than Bible Interpretation, Extemporaneous Apologetics, and Cultural Criticism. Competitors are encouraged to engage topics discussed by our culture and world. However, competitors, coaches, and parents are responsible for examining the perspective presented to ensure that the messages and themes in the speeches and chosen topics do not contradict biblical principles and the fundamental truths of the Bible.

Competitors, coaches, and parents are also responsible for ensuring the specific language used in all presentations reflects biblical principles. Let “no unwholesome word come out of your mouth, but if there is any good word for edification according to the need of the moment, say that, so that it will give grace to those who hear” (Ephesians 4:29). Follow the Apostle Paul’s example in examining the condition of man and the culture but without gratuitous detail.

Key Standards

- Messages and themes must not contradict fundamental truths of the Bible or biblical principles (see *CCA Statement of Faith*).
- Authoritative biblical citations must be limited to the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments universally recognized across a broad range of Christian traditions.

- Any representation or portrayal of God, including words attributed to Him and vocal and physical characterization of Him, shall be biblically accurate, guided by biblical principles, honoring to Him, and edifying to the audience and the competitor.
- Competitors must not present divisive or tradition-specific theological claims as normative or authoritative for all Christians.
- CCA is a family-oriented league. Discretion must be used to ensure speeches are appropriate for audiences which may include young children and community judges.
- Vulgarity, obscenity, indecency, and profanity are prohibited.
- Speech preparation (research/writing or cutting/preparing) must be solely the work of the competitor, except for reasonable coaching input.
- Plagiarism is prohibited and will result in disqualification.
- No speaker may compete with a selection of literature or topic of public address, whether a different adaptation, arrangement, or approach, used by that speaker in a prior year of competition in CCA or any other forensic competition.
- Props (except Visual Aids in Public Address events) and costumes are prohibited.
- Prior to tournament participation, a coach/leader and the parent must read each script and view each presentation to ensure compliance with all standards listed in this document.

Competitor Divisions and Eligibility

- The competitor's age as of January 1, 2026, will determine competitor division and event eligibility for the 2026 season.
- Each varsity competitor age 14 to 18 may participate in a maximum of three Individual Events per tournament, while each Varsity competitor age 13 may participate in a maximum of two Individual Events per tournament.
- Each Varsity competitor is limited to two consecutive seasons of competing in Impromptu at one or more CCA tournaments per season.
- To be eligible for Sweepstakes competition at a tournament, Varsity competitors must compete in one Individual Event from each genre (Oral Interpretation, Public Address, and Limited Preparation).
- Each Junior Varsity (JV) competitor (age 9 to 12) may compete in one Individual Event per tournament.
- Each Junior (JR) competitor (age 5 to 8, siblings of Varsity or JV competitors only) may compete in one Individual Event per tournament. Junior events are scheduled at Tournament Director discretion.

Recording Speeches

While CCA believes that Copyright law allows academic presentations, it does not allow the recording of such presentations. To honor the law where applicable, to preserve the integrity of Limited Preparation events, and to protect the privacy of those in the room, NO video and/or audio recording of Individual Events is permitted.

Script Submissions

By tournament check-in, each competitor must turn in a CCA *Script Submission Cover Page* stapled to all required subsequent pages. Failure to turn in a complete script submission is grounds for disqualification in that event. Duo partners must each turn in a complete script submission.

For Oral Interpretation

Script submissions must include the following in this order:

1. Completed CCA *Script Submission Cover Page* with all required signed assertions
2. Proof of Copyright (with Owner's Permission, if needed), Public Domain, or letter of Author's Permission (see below)
3. Original Introduction
4. Entire script (all author's words the competitor will include in the presentation). If a teaser is used, include it at the beginning of the script, following the Original Introduction page (even though a teaser comes first in the oral presentation).

Proof of Copyright, Public Domain, or Author's Permission (Not required for Bible Interpretation)

If Copyrighted:

- o A photocopy of the Copyright information of the work. On this page, the title, publishing company, and date of publication must be highlighted in yellow.
- o For works available exclusively online, competitors must print the proof of Copyright directly from the website. Make sure that the Copyright applies to the work itself, not merely the website.
- o If the Copyright information of the work indicates that performance permissions or royalties are required, the Owner's Permission must also be printed or photocopied and attached as a subsequent page.

Examples of performance permission and/or payment of royalties:

- A statement on the publisher's website waiving royalties for excerpts of less than 10 minutes at adjudicated educational competitions
- A signed and dated letter (or electronic signature with email address)

granting specific permission to perform

- An itemized payment receipt for performance royalties paid (note, this is not the same as a receipt for purchasing the script itself)
- o Parents and coaches are responsible for investigating and ensuring satisfaction of any and all requirements set forth by the publisher (including but not limited to permission to perform, royalties, cutting, right to photocopy, etc.)

If in the public domain:

- o If published in **1930** or earlier, a photocopy of the title page of the work. On this page, the title, publishing company, and date of publication must be highlighted in yellow.
- o For works available exclusively online, competitors must print the title page, including publishing company and date of publication highlighted in yellow, directly from the website.
- o If published *after* **1930**, proof that the work is in the public domain, and a photocopy of the title page, publishing company, and date of publication must be highlighted in yellow.

If the Copyright cannot be found and the work is not in the public domain:

- o A signed and dated letter of permission to use the work from the author-owner addressed to the competitor and/or parent. This should include the title and date of publication or production highlighted in yellow. An electronic signature with email address is acceptable.

For all forms of permission:

- o A photocopy of the Copyright information from the jacket or box of an audio or video recording associated with the script is not acceptable.
- o Copying the proper Copyright information or title from the book that the movie is based on is also prohibited.
- o A transcript of an audio or video recording not authorized by the owner of the work (even if the word “copyright” is included) is not acceptable.
- o For works found in an anthology or collection, include a copy of the Table of Contents with the title of the work highlighted in yellow. If there is no Table of Contents, include a copy of the work clearly identified as part of the anthology.

For Public Address

Script submissions must include the following in this order:

1. Completed CCA *Script Submission Cover Page* with all required signed assertions
2. Entire script of the presentation, with direct quotations highlighted in yellow.
3. Typed or printed Works Cited or References page (MLA or APA format suggested).

ORAL INTERPRETATION GENERAL STANDARDS

In Oral Interpretation events, the competitor chooses literature and presents it with creative use of voice and body. By participating in Oral Interpretation, the competitor should learn to communicate truths in literature through a variety of skills, including vocal delivery and physical presence. Additionally, he or she will gain knowledge of a variety of literature types.

The Literature

CCA desires that all material used in Oral Interpretation be edifying to the audience and the competitor.

- All literature must be from a published source. To verify this, documentation must be provided that meets the requirements listed under Script Submissions above.
- See Event Specific Standards below regarding allowability of literature published online.
- Original work is prohibited.
- Literature should not be disturbing, in that it is morbid, dark, or without hope.
- Cutting of literature must be done in a manner that maintains the author's intent for the spirit of the work.

Presentation

Forensic Notebook

The use of a Forensic Notebook is required for all interpretive speeches at all tournaments. This is in addition to and does not substitute for the script submission. The Forensic Notebook must be a black 5½" x 8½" 1-inch Round Ring Binder containing the script of the Oral Interpretation. The pages of the book must be on black card stock placed in plastic sleeves (sheet protectors). The Forensic Notebook must be closed during the original introduction and open during the teaser and the remainder of the presentation.

Creative use of the Forensic Notebook is permitted, except during the original introduction. Consider whether doing so enhances the particular presentation. Uses of the Forensic Notebook that distract from the presentation should be avoided.

Original Introduction

Every Oral Interpretation must include an original, memorized introduction that is presented with the Forensic Notebook closed.

- The competitor must properly introduce the presentation by identifying the title(s) and author(s) of the selection(s). Background information or the theme of the presentation may be given.

- The introduction must not exceed one minute.
- A 45-second “teaser” is permitted before the original introduction, and is not included in the one-minute time limit for the introduction.
- The introduction is the only place original words are permitted

Movement/Interpretation

- The Competitor’s presentation space is limited to a square no larger than one step in any direction from the center starting position.
- The only body part allowed to touch the floor is the feet.
- The competitor should employ off-stage focus during character dialogue, if included in selection(s).
- The competitor should render an original interpretation of the selection(s) and should not mimic actors' portrayals from any movie, audio, or television production based on that work of literature.
- Interpretation of literature must be done in a manner that maintains the author’s intent for the spirit of the work.

Time Limits

The time limit for the entire presentation (including the original introduction and teaser) is 10 minutes. There is no minimum time.

- Time begins when the competitor starts talking or when the Forensic Notebook is opened.
- Time ends when the Forensic Notebook has been closed for the final time, and the competitor stops talking.

Violations

The following violations will result in one or more rank deductions in the round:

- Lack of Forensic Notebook containing the script (2 rank)
- Overtime (A one-second overtime is considered a violation) (1 rank)
- Failure to cite title(s) and author(s) (1 rank)
- Failure to state the book(s) & chapter(s) & the translation during the introduction (Bible Interpretation) (1 rank)

ORAL INTERPRETATION EVENT SPECIFIC STANDARDS

Prose Interpretation (Prose) - Varsity, JV, and JR

Prose offers the opportunity for the competitor to develop and refine expressive speaking skills by presenting the written words of others. Common categories of prose are fiction (i.e., novels, novellas, short stories), non-fiction (i.e., biographies, essays, great speeches, historical documents), and heroic literature (i.e., legends, tales.) Works with literary merit must be selected.

- The presentation may include one or more selection(s) of published prose.
- Selection(s) must be available in print. Prose published exclusively online is prohibited.
- Multiple selections should have a connecting theme.
- Selection(s) may be of a serious or humorous nature.
- Selection(s) must have been originally published or intended by the author as prose and not as poetry or song lyrics.
- Prose from the Bible is to be reserved for the event of Bible Interpretation.

Poetry Interpretation (POE) - Varsity, JV, and JR

The Poetry Interpretation category allows the competitor to explore thoughts, feelings and ideas presented in the distinctive style of poetry. By choosing and interpreting works of literary merit, competitors demonstrate how accomplished poets use carefully selected words, meter, and other poetic devices to lend intensity to their message and create an emotional response in the audience.

- The presentation may include one or more selection(s) of published poetry.
- Selection(s) must be available in print. Poetry published exclusively online is prohibited.
- Multiple poems should have a connecting theme.
- Selection(s) may be of a serious or humorous nature.
- Selection(s) must have been originally published or intended by the author as poetry and not as prose. Poems published within a work of prose are permissible.
- Song lyrics are prohibited. Writings originally published as poetry and later set to music, such as “The Star Spangled Banner,” are permitted.
- Poetry from the Bible is to be reserved for the event of Bible Interpretation.

Bible Interpretation (Bible) - Varsity and JV

The purpose of this event is to provide an opportunity for the competitor to memorize verses and to enjoy being in the Word of God. The knowledge of Scripture is fundamental to Christian growth. In Bible Interpretation, competitors will learn how to present biblical texts in an engaging style.

- The competitor may use a single passage, or weave several passages together around a connecting theme.
- Instead of title/author as in other Oral Interpretation events, the Bible book(s) and chapter(s) and the translation used must be clearly stated in the memorized introduction.
- The passage(s) must be taken from the 66 books of the Old or New Testaments universally recognized across a broad range of Christian traditions and be from one of the following translations: New International Version (NIV), King James Version (KJV), New King James Version (NKJV), New American Standard Bible (NASB), or English Standard Version (ESV).
- The tone of the presentation should be of a serious nature. Humor is permitted, but it must be respectful and in no way dishonoring to the Word of God.

Dramatic Interpretation (DI) - Varsity only

The Dramatic Interpretation category focuses on the dramatic arts, which enable us to take a fictional or non-fictional script and use it to communicate a valuable message to an audience. The competitor also experiences the power of words in the great dramatic literary works.

- The presentation must include a single selection of a published dramatic script (a play script, radio script, or movie or television screenplay).
- The selection may be from a published in print text, or online publication.
- The selection must be primarily of a serious nature. Minimal humor is permitted.

Humorous Interpretation (HI) - Varsity only

Humorous Interpretation gives competitors a chance to use the interpretive arts as an entertaining medium that brings joy and laughter to the audience. The competitors should learn the importance of humor that is uplifting and beneficial.

- The presentation must include a single selection of published humorous script (a play script, radio script, or a movie or television screenplay).
- The selection may be from a published in print text, or online publication.
- The selection should contain a substantial amount of appropriate humor.

Dramatic Duo Interpretation (DDuo) - Varsity only

Dramatic Duo Interpretation is similar to the Dramatic Interpretation category, where competitors use the dramatic arts as a powerful method of communication, but as a two-person team. In this category, the competitors learn teamwork, cooperation, and unity as they present a cohesive message with a partner.

- The presentation must include a single selection of a published dramatic script (a play script, radio script, or movie or television screenplay).
- The selection may be from a published in print text, or online publication.
- The selection must be primarily of a serious nature. Minimal humor is permitted.
- Partners may share their presentation spaces, allowing them to switch places with each other during the presentation.
- Partners must not look directly at one another when in character, although eye contact is permitted during the introduction.
- Partners must not physically touch each other.

Humorous Duo Interpretation (HDuo) - Varsity only

Humorous Duo Interpretation is similar to the Humorous Interpretation category, where competitors use the interpretive arts as an entertainment medium, but as a two-person team. In this category, the competitors learn teamwork, cooperation, and unity as they present a cohesive presentation with a partner.

- The presentation must include a single selection of a published humorous script (a play script, radio script, or a movie or television screenplay).
- The selection may be from a published in print text, or online publication.
- The selection should contain a substantial amount of appropriate humor.
- Partners may share their presentation spaces, allowing them to switch places with each other during the presentation.
- Partners must not look directly at one another when in character, though eye contact is permitted during the introduction.
- Partners must not physically touch each other.

PUBLIC ADDRESS GENERAL STANDARDS

In Public Address events, competitors write and present original speeches about topics of their own choice. Since most vocations or pursuits involve the communication of knowledge and ideas, or the use of persuasion in changing policy and opinions, participating in this event will help competitors gain valuable skills that will benefit them throughout life.

Competitors will learn to research a topic, organize material into a logical and compelling presentation, and present this material in an effective manner. They will also develop greater aptitudes in grammar, composition, analysis, and citing of sources.

Content

Topics

The material presented must be an original, factual speech written solely by the competitor on a topic of non-fiction.

- Humor and satire are permitted.
- Speakers should employ organization of ideas within the speech including an introduction to the topic, a clear/arguable thesis, a main body consisting of main points and evidence directly supporting (proving) the thesis, and a conclusion.

Citations

Research must be properly cited throughout the speech. Failure to accurately cite a source is grounds for disqualification in that event.

- At least three sources must be used and cited.
- Unless information is common knowledge or comes personally from the competitor, citation must be given for both direct and indirect quotations.
- Citations must include *when* it was said or written (or accessed, if publishing date is not given for online source), *where* the quote was found, and if applicable, *who* said or wrote the quotation. However, when using a citation from the Bible, the publication date and publisher need not be stated within the speech (though still must be included in the Works Cited or References page).
- Direct quotations must not exceed 200 words total for the entire speech.

Presentation

Memorization

Memorization is required. The use of a script is not permitted and will result in disqualification from that event.

Movement

A “center stage” presence should be maintained. Movement from side to side is permitted for the purpose of transitioning between main points (i.e. speaker’s triangle).

Visual Aids

Visual aids are permitted in all PA events. Visual aids may include sketches, charts, graphs, diagrams, photographs, artwork, or computer-generated images. Visual aids are appropriate when their use enhances audience understanding or impact of the speech.

- Three-dimensional objects and audio materials are prohibited.
- Audio materials are prohibited.
- All visual aids must be attached to a black presentation board or boards no larger than 20" x 30", which are to be displayed on a floor easel.
- The visual aid(s) must be physically covered before speaking begins, and covered again at the completion of the speech.

Time Limits

The time limit for the presentation is 10 minutes. There is no minimum time.

- Time begins when the competitor begins to speak.
- Time ends when visual aids are again covered and the competitor stops speaking.

Violations

The following violations will result in disqualification or rank deduction(s) in the round:

- Use of a script (Disqualification)
- Lack of proper citations (1 rank)
- Overtime (A one-second overtime is considered a violation) (1 rank)
- Lack of Persuasive Thesis (i.e. mostly informative) (Persuasive) (2 rank)
- Failure to use scripture as criteria (Cultural Criticism) (2 rank)
- Content presented in inappropriate manner (Cultural Criticism) (1 rank)

PUBLIC ADDRESS

EVENT SPECIFIC STANDARDS

Persuasive (PER) - Varsity only

Persuasive Speaking is designed to encourage the communication of controversial topics and ideas in an effective way so the audience will be called to a state of action or shift in belief. The purpose is not to entertain, inform, or to present a belief that is already widely held. In Persuasive, the competitor will learn to use the skills of persuasion and organize material into a logical, compelling, and analytical presentation.

- The presentation must contain a thesis that is primarily persuasive.
- Positions already held by the general audience should be avoided.

Informative (INF) - Varsity and JV

Informative presentations are designed to educate the audience about a topic that is not widely known by the general public. In Informative, the competitor will learn to research a topic and present a position on it.

- The presentation must meet a general information need of the audience.
- Persuasive and motivational topics should be avoided, though topics with compelling implications of any nature are encouraged.
- Biographical topics are to be reserved for the Biographical Informative event.

Biographical Informative (BINF) - Varsity and JV

Biographical Informative presentations are designed to educate the audience about a topic that is not widely known by the general public. The focus is on the life of a real person. In this event, the competitor will learn to research an individual's life, accomplishments, and contributions to society, and then present a position to the audience. For example, the competitor might make a claim about some aspect of the individual's character, impact, or motivating influences.

- The material presented must be on a single historical or contemporary individual.
- The use of fictional characters is prohibited.

Cultural Criticism (CC) - Varsity only

The purpose of this event is to select an “artifact” from current secular American pop culture and evaluate it through an explicitly biblical worldview with the use of scripture. Cultural Criticism is designed to help competitors discern how to be in the world but not of it. The speech should go beyond identifying and condemning unbiblical behavior or ideology, and address how this particular artifact should be treated in light of scripture. This event should challenge Christian audience members to examine the culture they live in and consider the biblical implications of various elements of pop culture around them.

- The presentation must identify the “artifact.”
- The speaker must identify specific scripture passages and use them to analyze the artifact.

LIMITED PREPARATION

GENERAL STANDARDS

In Limited Preparation events, a competitor develops a speech on a prompt received only minutes before speaking. During a short amount of prep time, the competitor will analyze the prompt, apply pre-existing knowledge, and write the speech.

The skills learned through Limited Preparation are boundless. The need to answer questions and share thoughts and opinions without time to prepare detailed answers is a skill everyone uses on a daily basis. Being able to evaluate underlying meaning in a question or statement and have an appropriate response will better prepare competitors to interact with a variety of worldviews.

Prompts and Prompt Integrity

- Within each event, the prompt will be the same for all competitors in a given round.
- The competitor must return the prompt to the judge after the presentation.
- No competitor is permitted to listen to other speeches of that event before speaking in that round.
- To protect the integrity of the event, no tournament attendee may discuss the prompt with anyone, including those at other tournaments, until after the completion of the round. Anyone observing any violation of this standard should notify the Tournament Director immediately. Violators will be subject to disqualification from that event.
- The competitor must remain in the room during his/her preparation time.

Content

- The competitor must adhere to the statement/topic/question given.
- Prepared outlines are prohibited.
- Content a competitor invents or is unsure about must not be presented as fact.

Violations

The following violations will result in one or more rank deductions in the round.

- Failure to adhere to the topic or question (1 rank)
- Overtime (A one-second overtime is considered a violation) (1 rank)
- Failure to state the quote or saying verbatim in the introduction (IM only) (1 rank)
- Failure to cite the article (NA only) (1 rank)
- Failure to use scripture (EA only) (1 rank)

LIMITED PREPARATION EVENT SPECIFIC STANDARDS

Impromptu (IM) - Varsity only

Impromptu is designed for the competitor to evaluate a quotation or anonymous saying. They will become adept at understanding how to quickly develop and organize ideas, support those ideas with evidence, and present them in an organized fashion.

Prep Time

Each speaker has two minutes of preparation (prep) time, beginning when the competitor begins reading the prompt.

- The competitor may use only a single blank 3" x 5" note card and a writing implement during prep time.
- Prep time remaining will be indicated by verbal time signals given in the following increments: "1:30," "1 minute," "30 seconds," "5-4-3-2-1" and "Time."

Movement

- A "center stage" presence should be maintained during the speech.
- The competitor may use the speaker's triangle (see glossary) for the purpose of transitioning between main points.

Use of Materials During Speech

- Only the prompt and the single 3" x 5" note card with the competitor's original notes (created during prep time) are permitted during the speech.

Content

- The competitor must state the prompt verbatim in the introduction.
- The competitor should employ organization of ideas within the speech including a clear/arguable thesis, a main body consisting of main points and evidence directly supporting (proving) the thesis, and a conclusion.
- The competitor should utilize examples and illustrations, while limiting the use of personal examples.

Time Limits

The time limit is 5 minutes for the presentation. There is no minimum time.

- Time remaining will be indicated by hand time signals given in the following increments: 4, 3, 2, and 1 minute(s); 30 seconds; and 5 seconds.
- The clock does not stop until the competitor has stopped speaking.

News Analysis (NA) - Varsity only

In News Analysis, competitors are given a combined 10-minute preparation and speaking time to analyze and respond to a short article about a current event. The competitor will evaluate the accuracy of the information and validity of the claims, challenge or affirm the assertions made by the author, and present an analysis.

The 1st tournament focuses on Domestic current events, the 2nd International current events, the 3rd Economic current events, and the 4th all three categories.

Prep Time and File Box

- Each competitor will be given his/her own copy of the prompt (an 8 ½" x 11" article) inside an envelope. The competitor may write on the prompt. After the speech is over, the competitor will return the marked-up prompt in the envelope to the judge.
- The competitor may bring into the prep time one 3" x 5" file card box containing his/her own research. Research cards may be used during prep time only.
- The file box must not contain electronics. A calculator is permitted.

Movement

- The competitor is to remain seated at a desk/table during both preparation and speaking time.

Use of Materials During Speech

- Only the prompt and a writing utensil are permitted on the desk during the speech.
- The file box must be closed and placed on the floor during the presentation.

Content

- The competitor must fully cite the article in the beginning of the speech.
- In the introduction the competitor will synthesize the information and claims presented by the article, interpret its meaning, develop a thesis (the position the competitor takes on the topic), and give a preview of the main points.
- Each of the points in the main body should clearly support (prove) the thesis.

Time Limits

The time limit is 10 minutes for preparation and presentation. There is no minimum time for either preparation or speaking. The speaker should use the 10 minutes effectively.

- The clock will start when the competitor has opened the envelope and begins reading the prompt.

- Time remaining will be indicated verbally during preparation counting down from 10 in one-minute increments, and by hand time signals after the speaker has begun speaking given in the following increments: 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1 minute(s); 30 seconds; and 5 seconds.
- The clock does not stop until the competitor has stopped speaking.

Extemporaneous Apologetics (EA) - Varsity only

Extemporaneous Apologetics requires the competitor to evaluate and respond to a specific prompt related to a broad, previously-announced topic of theological doctrine. Christians have been charged with the responsibility to be a light in a dark world. EA is designed to prepare competitors to be ready to give an answer when the opportunity arises, and to do so with kindness, gentleness, humility and respect.

Competitors will have the opportunity to learn about common areas of doctrine, and how to rebut arguments with logical, well-reasoned and supported viewpoints. Both intellectual knowledge and personal faith will be strengthened as competitors study the Word of God and develop their own biblical convictions. Learning to articulate beliefs and the reasons behind those beliefs will prepare them for a life where these types of challenges provide opportunities for meaningful dialogue with others.

Topics

General EA topics for the next four years of competition are provided by CCA in the *Extemporaneous Apologetics Topic Rotation*.

Prep Time and File Box

Each speaker has 5 minutes of preparation (prep) time, beginning when the competitor begins reading the prompt.

- Prep time remaining will be indicated by verbal time signals given in the following increments: “4 minutes,” “3 minutes,” “2 minutes,” “1 minute,” “30 seconds,” “5-4-3-2-1” and “Time.”
- The competitor may bring into the prep time one 3” x 5” file card box containing only properly cited scriptures and quotations. Personal notes and note cards from previous tournaments are not permitted.
- The competitor may bring a Bible into the prep time, but not a study or apologetics Bible. A concordance in the back of the Bible is permitted.
- The competitor may bring a blank 3" x 5" note card and a writing implement into the prep time.

Movement

- A “center stage” presence should be maintained during the speech.
- The speaker’s movement should remain natural and conversational. The speaker’s triangle is not appropriate here.

Use of Materials During Speech

- The prompt, selected scripture/quotation cards from the file box, and the single 3" x 5" note card with the competitor's original notes (created during prep time) are permitted during the speech.
- The file box and Bible must remain at the prep table and must not be accessed during the speech.

Content

- The response should be directed toward the person asking the question or making the statement.
- The competitor should speak in a conversational tone as if speaking to a friend or an acquaintance. A formal speech is not appropriate here.
- The competitor must use scripture during the speech to directly answer the question/statement.

Time Limits

The time limit is 5 minutes for the presentation. There is no minimum time.

- Immediately before the speaker begins, a judge will read the question or statement aloud.
- The clock begins when the competitor begins speaking.
- Time remaining will be indicated by hand time signals given in the following increments: 4, 3, 2, and 1 minute(s); 30 seconds; and 5 seconds.
- The clock does not stop until the competitor has stopped speaking.

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS GLOSSARY

Apologetics: Apologetics is the development of an engaging and intellectual defense of the Christian faith; spoken with gentleness and respect; in the language of the audience; intended to remove misunderstandings and objections; and for the purpose of persuading the hearer that the Christian faith is reasonable and true. Apologetics is a defense—taken from the Greek word *apologia*—that requires thought and reasoning and thus requires development.

Artifact: A specific item, trend, ideology, slogan, person, type of media, form of technology, or other similar element from current secular American pop culture that can be analyzed from a biblical worldview. An artifact should not be selected from Christian culture for the Cultural Criticism event.

Biblical Worldview: A comprehensive understanding of material and spiritual reality perceived through the lens of biblical principles.

Cite: To provide as an authority or proof the source of a direct or indirect quotation or reference given in a presentation, as well as acknowledgement of a person's intellectual property. (Refer to event-specific citation requirements.)

Common Knowledge: Information widely known by the audience.

Copyright: The exclusive legal right to reproduce, publish, sell, or distribute the matter and form of something (as a literary, musical, or artistic work) (Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Eleventh Edition).

Direct Quotation: Exact, word-for-word recitation from a cited source.

Dramatic: A composition intended to portray life or character or to tell a generally serious story usually involving conflicts and emotions through action and dialogue, as opposed to a story that is primarily intended to be funny or entertaining.

Exclusively Online: A work that is found only on the internet and has never existed in print form. This applies to the categories of Humorous Interpretation, Dramatic Interpretation, Humorous Duo, and Dramatic Duo only and must not be used in Prose and Poetry Oral Interpretations.

In Print: Any literature that is currently, or has ever been, published in hard copy, book form. Kindle, Nook and other exclusively electronic publications are *not* published in print.

Literary Merit: Value, excellence, or superior quality (in a work of literature).

Literature: Creative works of prose, poetry, or drama. While not all prose writing is considered literature, even historical documents may be considered literature when they go beyond pure fact to narrative, style, or interpretation.

Main Points: Statements which each directly support (prove) a Public Address, Impromptu, or News Analysis thesis. Each main point should further narrow the thesis's argument, serve as a mini-thesis for one major portion of the speech, and be directly proven by evidence. Background and applications of a topic are usually not appropriate main points and are generally better suited for introductions and conclusions, respectively.

Poem: An arrangement of words, traditionally a rhythmical composition, sometimes rhymed, expressing experiences, ideas or emotions in a style more concentrated, imaginative, and powerful than that of ordinary speech or prose; some poems are in meter, some in free verse (Webster's New World Dictionary, 1980).

Proof of Copyright: Evidence the script is not the competitor's own work, but that of the original author (Oral Interpretation). Recognizes the owner's intellectual rights, and teaches competitors how to research and properly document Copyrighted material. (Refer to specific requirements for evidence of Copyright, and related information where required, under the Script Submissions section of this document.)

Prose: Prose is language that follows a grammatical structure with sentences and paragraphs, without a meter, verse, or rhythmic pattern.

Public Domain: The right of anyone to use literature, music or other previously copyrighted materials after the copyright period has expired or has been expressly waived.

Publish: To produce or release for distribution (Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Eleventh Edition).

Rank Deduction: Competitor's loss of placement within the presenting group based upon violation of the rules.

Speaker's Triangle: The technique of walking to and from different places (i.e. not in a literal triangular shape) in the speaking area as a transition from one main point to another. Typically used in Public Address and in Impromptu.

Synthesize: As used in the News Analysis event, to combine the information and claims presented by the author into one overall point. A synthesis is not simply a summary or restatement of the author's information, but it is rather taking multiple parts and forming them into a complex whole.

Theme: The message an author of a work of literature is conveying. (For example, the topic may be "love," but the theme may be "true love puts the needs of others over the desires of oneself.") If more than one theme is identified in work(s) of literature, one of these themes should be selected as the focus of an Oral Interpretation event.

Thesis: One sentence summarizing a Public Address, Impromptu, or News Analysis speech's claim about a specific topic. A claim is an arguable, debatable position, not merely a statement of fact.