

Description of Event

The competitor has a maximum of 10 minutes to present an original speech on an artifact that is considered a part of current secular American pop culture. They will analyze that subject through an explicitly biblical lens, using specific scriptures as criteria or guidelines for how a Christian should interact with a subject of this nature. Analysis should include implications for Christians. Competitors shall provide proper citations, which involves stating the source and date (and author, where applicable) of any quotations or summarized information beyond common knowledge of the audience. Humor and satire are permitted, though must be respectful and appropriate for the topic. No scripts or notes shall be used. Movement will generally take place center stage. Visual aids are optional. If used, visual aids are physically covered at the beginning and at the conclusion of the speech.

Definition: An **artifact** may be 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.

Please note: A competitor may express a viewpoint contrary to that of the judge. Each speech should be judged on the quality of the reasoning, analysis, information presented, and sound biblical truth.

Things to Look for in a Good Speech

The introduction should draw you in and make you want to hear more. In it, the competitor should justify significance of the artifact chosen, develop an appropriate thesis statement (which is the position the competitor takes on the artifact), and give a preview of the main points. Each of the points in the main body should clearly support (prove) the thesis. The competitor must identify specific scripture passages and use them to analyze the artifact. The speech should go beyond identifying and condemning unbiblical behavior or ideology, and address how this particular subject should be treated in light of scripture. The flow of thoughts should be smooth and natural, building to a conclusive end. Multiple sources in addition to the Bible should be used and properly cited throughout the development of the speech. The conclusion should demonstrate a proven determination in light of scripture about the artifact and provide closure to the speech.

Violations to Watch For

- Use of a script, notes, or prompting will result in **disqualification**
- Not using scripture as a criterion will result in a **two-rank** violation
- Content presented in inappropriate manner will result in a **one-rank** violation
- Exceeding the time limit will result in a **one-rank** violation

Please note: Plagiarism is prohibited. If a judge has concerns about proper attribution but is uncertain whether source citation is lacking, the judge should notify the Tournament Director upon completion of the round.

Master Ballot Instructions (for top page of ballot pack)

1. If any competitor received the violation resulting in disqualification, write his/her name in the first column of the Violation(s) box. Write “DQ” in the second column of the Violation(s) box. Then set the disqualified ballot(s) aside while completing the following steps.
2. Fill in the original rank of each remaining competitor next to his/her name in the Rank column. *Give the competitor with the highest number of points, 1st place; the second highest number of points, 2nd place; and so on. It is possible to have a tie in points between competitors on individual ballots, however, the tie MUST be broken when figuring the rank. Disqualified competitor(s) are not ranked or considered when ranking others.*
3. In the Violation(s) box, write the name of each competitor who had one or more numeric (rank-affecting) violations. Write the total number of numeric violations next to each name (unless already noted as a DQ).

Next, if NO ranked competitor received a numeric violation, circle final rank on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place **individual ballots**. However, if ANY ranked competitor received a numeric violation, do not circle final ranks (as ballot check staff will apply violations to original ranks to determine final ranks.) Proceed to ballot check for review of all ballots.