2020
LEAGUE HANDBOOK

The mission of the National Christian Forensics and Communications Association is to promote excellence in communications through competitive opportunities where Christian students develop the skills necessary to think critically and communicate effectively in order to address life issues from a biblical worldview in a manner that glorifies God.

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WELCOME TO NCFCA

MISSION

The mission of the National Christian Forensics and Communications Association (NCFCA) is to promote excellence in communications through competitive opportunities where Christian students develop the skills necessary to think critically and communicate effectively in order to address life issues from a biblical worldview in a manner that glorifies God.

FOUNDATIONAL BELIEFS

NCFCA is a non-denominational Christian organization and our Foundational Beliefs are integral to who we are both in word and deed.

Statement of Faith

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Position Statements

For more than two thousand years, the Christian church has held almost exclusively accepted viewpoints on the veracity and inerrancy of Scripture and on issues related to marriage and biblical sexuality. Acknowledgement of what constitutes a "Christian worldview" based on these beliefs has gone largely without dispute until the last decade. Current societal norms, both inside and outside the church, have challenged the clarity with which NCFCA once operated and required us to resolutely affirm what Scripture has to say about these two issues.

Scriptural Inerrancy

We believe that the Bible in its entirety "is breathed out by God" (2 Tim. 3:16), is inerrant in its original autographs (Prov. 30:5; 2 Pet. 1:20-21), and is "profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:17).

Marriage and Gender

In order to clearly indicate our position on an extensive list of issues related to marriage and human sexuality, NCFCA's Board of Directors has chosen to affirm the Nashville Statement. This statement, based on Scripture, addresses issues including premarital, extramarital, and homosexual relationships, gender alteration or identification, as well as physical disorders related to gender.

AFFILIATION

NCFCA invites like-minded individuals, families, schools, and organizations to partner with us in achieving our mission. To become and remain an NCFCA Affiliate in good standing, one must:

- Affirm Foundational Beliefs
- Uphold applicable league rules
- Exhibit Christ-like behavior

Affiliation Type	Benefits	Fee
Family Affiliation	Full access to NCFCA Resource Library Debate resolution voting Discounts (HSLDA, Online classes, Test prep, Printing) Monthly newsletter	$100/family before August 15th $125/family between August 15th and October 14th $150/family after October 14th
School Affiliation	Full access to NCFCA Resource Library Debate resolution voting Discounts (Online classes, Printing, Supplies) Monthly newsletter	$225 (0-4 competitors) $325 (5-9 competitors) $425 (10-14 competitors) $500 (15 or more competitors)
Coach Affiliation	Full access to NCFCA Resource Library Debate resolution voting Discounts (Online classes, Printing, Supplies) Quarterly newsletter designed for coaches	$30/coach/season
Alumni Affiliation	Invitations to alumni-exclusive events Discounts (Online classes, Printing, Supplies) Quarterly newsletter designed for alumni	$30/alumni/season
Supporter Affiliation	Quarterly newsletter	$30/supporter/season

A complete list of affiliation benefits can be found on the NCFCA website.

NCFCA maintains the right to revoke an Affiliate's good standing status for failure to uphold the Affiliate expectations listed above. After assessing the situation, the National Adjudication Team may revoke an Affiliate's good standing status for a specific period of time or permanently. Affiliation fees are not refunded for an Affiliate who loses good standing status.

An Affiliate who has lost good standing status may appeal its revocation by sending a written explanation of the situation and outlining the case for appeal to the Executive Director who will confer with the National Adjudication Team and other relevant members of NCFCA leadership before rendering a final decision. The NCFCA Board of Directors may choose to review any final revocation of good standing status by its own motion or by request of the Executive Director.

In the rare event that a dispute is not able to be resolved via the aforementioned process, NCFCA and all Affiliates agree that any claim or dispute arising from or related to participating in NCFCA activities shall be settled by mediation and, if necessary, legally binding arbitration in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for Christian Conciliation of the Institute for Christian Conciliation, a division of Peacemaker® Ministries. (Complete text is available at www.Peacemaker.net.) Judgment upon an arbitration decision may be entered in any court otherwise having jurisdiction. NCFCA and all Affiliates understand that these methods shall be the sole remedy for any controversy or claim arising out of this agreement and expressly waive their right to file a lawsuit in any civil court against one another for such disputes, except to enforce an arbitration decision.

COMPETITION ELIGIBILITY

Affiliate Status

An eligible competitor must:

- Be an NCFCA Affiliate in good standing and must have read and agreed with the NCFCA Foundational Beliefs.

- Be no younger than 12 years old and no older than 18 years old on September 1st of the competition season with the exception of Moot Court competitors who shall be no younger than 15 years old and no older than 18 years old on September 1st of the competitive season.

- Not have graduated from high school.

Eligibility FAQs

Regarding Age Requirements	
May exceptions be made for younger students who are eager to compete?	No. Eligibility exceptions will not be made for students who are younger than 12 on September 1st of the competition season. Students younger than this age may participate in junior-level events.
May exceptions be made for younger students who are eager to compete in Moot Court?	No. Eligibility exceptions will not be made for students who are younger than 15 on September 1st of the competition season. Students younger than this age are encouraged to participate in any of the other currently offered NCFCA events.
May exceptions be made for students who will be older than 18 on September 1st of the competition season?	No. Eligibility exceptions will not be made for students who are older than 18 on September 1st of the competition season. Students older than this age may not compete in NCFCA.

Regarding School Status	
May a middle school student participate in NCFCA competition?	Yes. NCFCA is a high school league that allows middle school student participation. Parental consideration should be given as to the social and spiritual maturity required to wrestle with high school, age-appropriate material.
May a student take classes at a local community college, participate in a dual enrollment program, or attend a school and still be eligible for NCFCA competition?	Yes. A student is eligible for NCFCA competition regardless of educational method so long as all eligibility requirements are met and tournament policies and procedures are understood and affirmed.
May a student accumulate college credit through CLEP-type tests and AP courses and still be eligible for NCFCA competition?	Yes. A student is eligible for NCFCA competition regardless of educational plan so long as all eligibility requirements are met.
May a student compete in a college forensics league and still compete in NCFCA?	No. NCFCA is a high school league, and a student who competes at the collegiate level is ineligible to compete in NCFCA tournaments.
May a student graduate from high school and remain eligible for NCFCA competition?	No. A student who has graduated is no longer a high school student in terms of NCFCA competition and is ineligible to compete in NCFCA tournaments.

TOURNAMENTS

NCFCA offers several different opportunities for students to practice analytical and oratorical skills at tournaments regionally and nationally. Below are brief descriptions of the different tournament types in which a student may participate. Specific event details may be found on your dashboard. Additional qualification information may be found in Appendix D: Qualification System.

Regional or District Qualifier*

A Regional or District Qualifier ranges from 1 ½ to 3 days of competition, is open to eligible competitors within their region or district, and offers ten speech events and two debate events. Competitors who advance to elimination rounds or are recognized at an Awards Ceremony qualify to their Regional Championship in that event and earn at-large points according to their final placing.

National Mixer

A National Mixer is a 3- to 4-day national tournament, is open to eligible competitors from all regions, and offers ten speech events, two debate events, and Moot Court. Competitors who advance to elimination rounds or are recognized at an Awards Ceremony qualify to their Regional Championship in that event and earn at-large points according to their final placing. Competitors who place 1st in any event qualify to the National Championship.

National Open

A National Open is a 3- to 4-day national tournament, is open to eligible competitors from all regions, and offers ten speech events, two debate events, and Moot Court. Competitors who advance to elimination rounds or are recognized at an Awards Ceremony qualify to their Regional Championship in that event and earn at-large points according to their final placing. Competitors who place 1st or 2nd in any event qualify to the National Championship.

Regional Championship

A Regional Championship is typically a 3-day event and is open to eligible competitors in a region who have qualified through a Regional or District Qualifier, a National Mixer, or a National Open. Top competitors in each event advance to the National Championship, and all remaining competitors who are recognized at the Awards Ceremony earn at-large points. See Appendix D: Qualification System for details.

National Championship

The National Championship is open to eligible competitors who have qualified through a Regional Championship, a National Mixer, a National Open, or the National At-Large System.

*Regions are assigned by the geographical location of the address on your NCFCA account. If you would like to reassign to a region other than the one prescribed, reassignment is available on your profile page on the dashboard and may not be revoked once submitted. Any request to reassign must be processed prior to December 31st, must be accompanied by a $20 surcharge, and will be in effect for the current competition season only.

TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION

Your NCFCA dashboard will provide a list of all competitive opportunities available to students identified by tournament type. Detailed information and online registration for each tournament is available by clicking on the tournament name.

REGISTRATION FEES

Tournament Type	Student Entry Fee	Debate Event Fee	Speech Event Fee
Regional and District Qualifiers	$15	$35	$13
National Mixers	$15	$40	$15
National Opens	$15	$40	$15
Regional Championship	$25	$40	$15
National Championship	$25	$50	$20
Junior Events	$5	n/a	$5

REGISTRATION PROCESS

Registration requests for each tournament will be accepted via the tournament information page on your dashboard until the designated registration close date. Specific dates are outlined on tournament information pages.

What?	When?	How?
Request Period	Begins November 1	• Log in to your account. • Choose your tournament, student, and event(s). • Indicate partners, debate club (if applicable), chaperone, and nametags for others attending with you. • Requests made via the registration tab do not guarantee participation in the tournament.
Registration Closing	Designated Monday at midnight CT	• Registration closes.
Invoices Emailed	Tuesday after Registration	• Events are filled by random electronic assignment based on available space. If demand exceeds available space, a waitlist will be created. • Requests that have been confirmed are moved to the registration list. • Invoices are emailed to registered Affiliates. • Questions regarding invoices should be directed to Registrar@NCFCA.org.
Payment Due	Tuesday at 5pm CT through Thursday at 5pm CT	• Log in to your account. • Pay for invoiced event fees. • Orders that remain unpaid at 5pm CT on Thursday are moved to the bottom of any waitlist and assessed a $25 late fee. ($5 late fee for Junior Events).
Late Registration	Friday at 12pm CT	• Register for events that have remaining space.

REGISTRATION POLICIES

Partners and Registration

For any event requiring a partner, both partners must request registration before the team is moved to the registration list. Students who have not indicated a partner or are waiting for their partner to register will remain on the waitlist until the other partner has registered.

Late Registration

Late registration requires a $25 late fee ($5 late fee for Junior Events) and will open online at noon CT on the designated Friday for events with remaining space. With this registration, you will be able to choose your events and check-out all in one transaction. Payment is required for the registration to be complete.

Confirmation List

The confirmation list for each tournament will include all completed (paid) orders. If you notice an inaccuracy, please report these to the Registrar at Registrar@NCFCA.org immediately.

Waitlists and Registration Preference

NCFCA meets its mission when students participate and will make every attempt to accommodate as many requests as possible.

Unfortunately, there are instances when demand exceeds space and a waitlist will be created. Although it may take a week or so, in most cases, the waitlisted students are able to be accommodated before the tournament begins. If a student is not able to be accommodated for a particular event, he will be notified by email and given preferential registration in that event the next time he registers for a tournament. The registration software will automatically account for this status, so no action is required on the part of the student.

In the unlikely event that there are too many preferred students for the available space and a student remains on a waitlist for a second tournament, he will be given a higher preference status the next time he registers for a tournament. Please keep in mind that if a space is offered and subsequently declined by the student, his preferred status will be lost.

Registration Adjustments

Event Exchange

Please make every effort to request registration for the correct events. If, after payment is made, it becomes necessary to "exchange" one registered event for another event category, contact the Registrar using the request change button with the specific request. If space is available in the newly requested event, there will be a $20 event exchange fee associated with the transaction that must be paid before the exchange is finalized.

Dropping an Event

Dropping an event has a significant, negative impact on the tournament and should not be taken lightly.

– Prior to payment: If an Affiliate finds that he has registered for an event in error, the event line item may be removed without financial obligation and without affecting other selected events.

– After payment: In the rare instance that an Affiliate must drop an event after payment has been made, the adjustment must be made no less than 72 hours before the start of the tournament. No refunds are available for dropped events.

Refunds

Refunds for paid orders will only be issued for extenuating circumstances such as an illness or death in the family. If you believe your circumstances meet these criteria, you may submit a refund request via the link in Past Orders in the shopping cart within 14 days of the close of the affected event.

Scholarships

A limited number of scholarships for registration fees are available by demonstrating financial need via the Financial Hardship link in your shopping cart. Scholarships must be requested prior to payment as refunds are only issued under the extenuating circumstances detailed above and will not be considered once an order is paid.

Meals

Meal options will be available for pre-order for each tournament. Details regarding pricing, ordering instructions, and deadlines will be posted on the tournament information page for each tournament location.

These meals are a convenient, optional, but highly encouraged service designed to lighten the burden of bringing food from home for competitors, parents, chaperones, and non-judging guests. Attendees should not plan to leave the tournament to get food due to liability and scheduling issues. Judge Hospitality (light meals and snacks) will only be available for community and alumni judges.

Options

Some tournament facilities allow attendees to bring food from home for their family. Since NCFCA does not own its facilities, we cannot guarantee this option at all tournaments. Consult the tournament information page for the tournament you plan to attend for details.

Adjustments

Once an order has been placed and payment has been made, refunds are not available for meals.

TOURNAMENT POLICIES

NCFCA is committed to providing competitive opportunities in a Christ-centered, biblically-based environment. To aid in this effort we have developed policies meant to provide a safe environment, to assist in fostering personal integrity and responsibility, as well as to clarify league expectations for competition. We believe it is in the best interest of the entire NCFCA community to establish certain guidelines for conduct which must be maintained by all Affiliates so that we might strive together to fulfill our mission.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

"…in a manner that glorifies God" outlines the essence of NCFCA's commitment to excellence in all we do. Academic integrity, or adherence to the principles of academic honesty, are foundational to our witness through the respect we show others. Practically speaking, this means taking care that any work presented in competition is either original or clearly indicates the source of the information, and is, to the best of your knowledge, completely truthful. Students should ensure that they understand plagiarism and their responsibility regarding the concept of ownership. Competitors will be required to affirm the NCFCA Ethics Statement during the online check-in process for each tournament.

> *As an NCFCA participant in agreement with the mission statement, I am committed to academic integrity and ethical behavior in all areas of competitive forensics. I understand that through my participation in NCFCA, I serve as a witness of Christ and will seek to reflect this at all times.*

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Registration payment is a commitment to attend and actively participate in the entire event for both the parent/chaperone and student. Do not register for events in which you are not prepared to fulfill this obligation in its entirety.

CHAPERONE POLICY

All competitors, regardless of age, must be accompanied and supervised by a parent or legal guardian who must remain on-site and available to serve throughout the entire tournament. If a parent is unable to attend, he may appoint another designated adult to attend, but must ensure that the chaperone meets all criteria outlined below. A designated adult chaperone:

- may not be a competitor.
- must be at least 21 years old or at least 19 years old if he or she is a sibling of the competitor.
- must be prepared to fully participate in the tournament by serving as a judge or in another tournament capacity throughout the event.
- must view one Judge Training each season for speech and for debate prior to judging.
- may only be responsible for students in one family regardless of the number of students in the family.
- may not be an adult who is already responsible for their own competing children.
- must be in possession of a signed medical release for each student in his care.

Any student who arrives at a tournament without a parent or chaperone who meets the criteria above will not be allowed to remain on the premises.

Exceptions to the chaperone policy will be made only under extenuating circumstances and must be approved in writing by the Director of Forensics as far ahead of the event as possible. Requests for exceptions should be submitted using the link on your dashboard.

While NCFCA is sympathetic to the routine struggles of families, it is not fair to excuse a few families from their responsibilities while expecting all other families to make the necessary arrangements to attend. As such, work/schedule conflicts, younger children, activities of other family members, financial difficulties, etc. do not meet the standard for an extenuating circumstance.

CHECK-IN POLICY

Check-in for each tournament ensures that competitors are ready for competition. Online check-in will take place during a specified timeframe within the 24 hours prior to the start of the tournament. Competitors who fail to check in online during the designated time without notifying tournament officials are subject to being dropped from the tournament.

Competitor Check-in Process

Registered competitors will check in online and must confirm the events for which they are registered. They will be asked to provide on-site contact information for themselves and to confirm their attending parent, legal guardian, or designated chaperone. Students will also be asked to affirm the NCFCA Ethics Statement.

Parent/Guardian/Chaperone Check-in Process

Parents, guardians, or designated chaperones will check in online and provide on-site contact information for themselves.

Script Submission

Registered competitors must submit their platform and interpretation scripts electronically during the designated check-in timeframe. Step-by-step instructions will be provided on the dashboard. Competitors who fail to submit scripts will not be allowed to compete.

COMPETITION MATERIAL POLICY

Content

Our mission to glorify God should guide competitors, parents, and coaches to choose material that upholds their integrity and witness for Christ.

- The source from which a competitor chooses a selection should follow the same guidelines as the actual material being presented. Others who view the student's work may trust that if a piece the student chooses is suitable for competition, the original source material would also be suitable for competition.

- Potentially intense or sensitive speeches must always be preceded by the verbal disclaimer, "This speech contains potentially intense or sensitive material."

- Speeches which advocate a position counter to the Foundational Beliefs of the league will not be allowed in competition.

Original Work

Guidance is critical to aid young people in developing their communication skills. Parents and coaches should provide instruction, encouragement, and feedback to competitors as they research their topics, write their speeches, design their slides, or cut literature selections, but remember that the student's original work must be entered into competition.

DRESS CODE POLICY

NCFCA's dress code is intended to glorify Christ, to promote professionalism, and to maximize the focus on the development of ideas and communication skills.

	Gentlemen	Ladies

Required for Competition and Awards Ceremonies (Business Professional)	Option 1:
	    Suit *with*
	    Dress shirt and tie
	    Dress shoes
		Option 1:
		    Pant or skirt suit (hemline to middle of knee) *with*
		    Dress Blouse (or top)
		    Dress Shoes

	Option 2:
	    Sport coat *with*
	    Dress shirt and tie
	    Dress slacks
	    Dress shoes
		Option 2:
		    Suit-type jacket *with*
		    Dress pants or skirt (hemline to middle of knee)
		    Dress blouse (or top)
		    Dress shoes

		Option 3:
		    Dress (hemline to middle of knee)
		    Sleeveless dresses require a suit-type jacket

	Gentlemen	**Ladies**

Recommended for Check-In or Social Activities (Modest Casual)	Options:
	    Sweaters, sweatshirts, shirts, t-shirts
	    Pants, jeans, long shorts
	    Casual shoes
		Options:
		    Sweaters, sweatshirts, shirts, t-shirts
		    Pants, jeans, or long skirts/shorts/dresses
		    Casual shoes

Never Acceptable	**All Competitors**
	
	    Short shorts/skirts/dresses
	    Shirts that are low-cut, fail to cover the midriff, or have spaghetti straps
	    Inappropriate content, see-through fabric, or tight-fitting clothing	

A student who is out of dress code is not permitted to compete. Failure to adhere to the dress code will result in a warning and requirement to change into compliant attire. No accommodations will be made if the student misses a round due to the need to change clothes. If a second violation occurs during the season, disciplinary action such as loss of round or rank will be determined by the National Adjudication Team. In the unfortunate event of a third violation within the season, the student will be disqualified from the tournament. A further violation will result in disqualification from NCFCA competition for the remainder of the season.

PARTICIPANT CODE OF CONDUCT

Personal Character

Each tournament participant is expected to act in a manner that reflects biblical values and to develop personal character traits that show maturity. Further, as a community of Christians, participants should encourage and support others to live in a manner that pleases God. While the Code of Conduct speaks specifically to the behavior of competitors, visiting students, and younger siblings, parents and coaches should seek to uphold scriptural mandates to model Christ-like behavior for our children. As a Christian organization, NCFCA takes this responsibility to heart and reserves the right to intervene when necessary to uphold this mandate.

Participants must:

- Respect the NCFCA Foundational Beliefs.

- Practice courtesy and consideration in their association with competitors, parents, tournament personnel, staff, and community volunteers.

- Respect the authority of parents, coaches, NCFCA leadership, and tournament staff, treating them courteously, respectfully, and obediently as unto the Lord.

- Respect NCFCA competition as a formal event done for the glory of the Lord.

- Exercise integrity. They should be truthful and honorable, never lying or stealing. They should do their own work, giving credit where credit is due, and be careful never to plagiarize others' work. (See Academic Integrity.)

- Accept personal responsibility for obeying all event rules and all applicable policies outlined in the League Handbook.

General Behavior

Participants must:

- Abstain at all times from the use or possession of alcoholic beverages, tobacco or e-cigarettes, illegal drugs, and pornography as well as other undesirable practices that are generally recognized to be harmful to health and Christian character.

- Abstain from profanity and vulgar and abusive speech and actions (written, verbal, or electronic).

- Refrain from all public displays of affection on tournament grounds.

- Leave all dangerous items, such as weapons, at home.

- Refrain from bullying, physically or verbally abusing, coercing, stalking, intimidating, verbally or sexually harassing, discriminating, or any other behavior that places the health and safety of oneself or others in jeopardy.

- Refrain from retrieving, saving, or displaying hate-based, offensive, or sexually explicit material via any means while on the campus of an NCFCA event.

- Refrain from any form of gambling that involves the exchange of money.

- Refrain from any behavior which would violate the NCFCA Foundational Beliefs.

RECORDING POLICY

NCFCA tournament competition may be recorded for personal, club, or classroom use provided that permission of all competitors involved in that round is obtained prior to the recording. The request for permission should be made outside of the competition room and not in the presence or earshot of the judge(s). Parents who do not wish for their student to be videotaped should instruct their student to deny any request. Those requesting permission should respect the wishes of the competitor and refrain from coercion.

Judges may not record the round by audio, video, or any other means without written permission from the Director of Forensics.

Other than the recording of one's own child, no portion of NCFCA competition may be recorded, either by audio, video, or other means, for reproduction and distribution without written permission from NCFCA (Office@NCFCA.org).

SAFETY POLICY

NCFCA is committed to providing a safe environment for the physical and emotional well-being of all students who participate. The following protocols have been established and are regularly reviewed at each tournament to ensure a safe environment where risks to competitors are minimized.

Adult Supervision

When not participating in a tournament-sponsored event, children under 12 years old must be directly supervised by their parent, guardian, or a parent-designated adult.

Background Checks

NCFCA requires background checks on all paid staff and volunteer leadership.

Identification

All NCFCA Affiliates (students, parents, and siblings), community judges, and tournament guests must wear a nametag while on-site at any league event.

"More than Two" Rule

NCFCA parents and chaperones should not enter a competition room where there is only one student present. In the same manner, students should not enter a competition room where there is only one non-family adult present.

Open Doors

Competition room doors are to remain open unless there is a speaker speaking or there is a debate round in progress.

Personal Responsibility

It is the responsibility of all Affiliates to promote and protect the emotional and physical safety of all participants. If an unsafe condition exists, immediate action should be taken to remove the student(s) from harm and to notify tournament administration by contacting the nearest Communications staff member.

Tournament Boundaries

NCFCA participants must remain in areas of the facility designated for NCFCA use.

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

NCFCA believes all of our communication reflects who we are and what we think. Therefore, our online conduct should reflect the same standards of honesty, respect, and consideration that we use during face-to-face interaction. We encourage each Affiliate to conduct themselves online in a way that honors the Lord and maintains a clear Christian witness. NCFCA Affiliates, leadership, parents, and coaches should avoid posting or sending material that is obscene, defamatory, profane, libelous, threatening, harassing, abusive, or hateful to any other person or entity. This type of communication is directly contrary to our mission of helping young people learn to address life issues from a biblical worldview in a manner that glorifies God.

Every individual certainly has the right to express themselves, but Christians should remember that the method and content of their expression also reflects on the body of Christ. Further, if an Affiliate's actions or statements, whether in person or otherwise, are harmful or create a threatening environment to NCFCA, our Affiliates, partners, etc., then that Affiliate could be subject to disciplinary action up to and including revocation of their Affiliate in good standing status.

SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS POLICY

Affiliates with special needs or learning disabilities are eligible to compete; however, no exceptions to tournament rules may be made to accommodate those needs.

Affiliates with physical challenges are eligible to compete. Requests for special arrangements that may affect competition must be made in advance by sending a detailed explanation of the situation to the Director of Forensics. NCFCA will make accommodations when practical, but as NCFCA does not own its tournament locations, those accommodations may vary from tournament to tournament.

TOURNAMENT ORIENTATION POLICY

All parents and competitors who will be attending tournaments must view the Tournament Orientation prior to their first tournament. This video will be accessible on the tournament app and in the Resource Library beginning in December of each competition season.

VISITING STUDENTS POLICY

Students on-site who are not competing but are competitive age or younger will be expected to follow all guidelines outlined in this Handbook. This includes chaperone requirements, an expectation of exemplary behavior, modest dress, etc.

WEATHER POLICY

In the event that inclement weather is forecast prior to an NCFCA tournament, league officials will communicate to all registered Affiliates via email as early as possible. If inclement weather occurs during a tournament, league officials will communicate via email and during scheduled announcements regarding any necessary adjustments to the schedule. While it is our desire that each tournament run to completion, the safety of our Affiliates will be our number one priority in an inclement weather situation. Refunds due to any alteration of schedule, including cancellation of the event, will be subject to review of the financial commitments of the league and will be considered on a tournament-by-tournament basis.

TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES

AUTHORITY

District, Regional, and National Tournaments

The Regional Director or Tournament Director is responsible to ensure that all NCFCA tournaments are run in accordance with NCFCA rules, guidelines, policies, procedures, and Mission Statement, under the guidance of the Director of Forensics. The Regional Director or Tournament Director shall resolve problems that threaten either the integrity or operation of the tournament in order to maintain a safe, educational environment for tournament participants.

Final Authority

The NCFCA Executive Director has final authority over all NCFCA tournaments.

PARTICIPATION

Competitor

- Competitors should expect to be actively involved for the duration of the tournament and should be willing to serve in various ways if asked.

- Competitors who are unable to participate for the full duration of a tournament should not register.

- Early exit from a tournament will result in revocation of any qualification to the next level of competition and forfeiture of any at-large points gained from that tournament. Requests for exceptions to this rule must be submitted via email to the Director of Forensics at DirofForensics@NCFCA.org within 72 hours of the conclusion of the Awards Ceremony.

Parent/Guardian/Chaperone

- Parents/chaperones should expect to actively serve as judges or staff for the duration of the tournament.

- Parents who are unable to fully participate for the duration of a tournament should not register their students for the event.

JUDGING

Judge Philosophy

NCFCA values a diverse judge pool which includes experienced judges (both those with NCFCA experience and those from other leagues), lay judges, affiliated judges (e.g., parents and coaches), community judges, and judges with worldviews which are both similar to and different from those of NCFCA competitors in order to offer competitors varied feedback and to encourage them to be universal in their impact.

Judge Eligibility

Age

A judge must be at least 18 years old, must not be currently enrolled in high school, and must not have been eligible to compete in any NCFCA event during the current season.

Relationship

Judges must be unrelated to the competitors they are assigned to judge.

Re-Judging

A judge should not judge a specific speaker more than one time in the same prepared speech or on the same side of a debate round in any given tournament. The same judge may judge a speaker in a different event or more than one time in limited preparation speeches and/or on the opposite side of debate.

Judge Training

Each judge should view the appropriate Judge Training presentation before judging.

Head Judge

One judge will be appointed as Head Judge of the room for each round of speech and will handle the related duties as presented on the Head Judge instructions.

Judge Decisions

All judge decisions are final as they apply to assessment of the round; however, adjudication determinations by the National Adjudication Team supersede judge assessments. All adjudication decisions are final.

TEAM POLICY AND LINCOLN-DOUGLAS VALUE DEBATE COMPETITION

Rules

All Debate Rules will be followed at NCFCA tournaments. These can be found in Appendix A and in the Resource Library on the NCFCA website.

Limitations

- A debater may compete in either Lincoln-Douglas Value or Team Policy at any given tournament.

- Debaters may not participate with two different partners at the same tournament in Team Policy.

- Debaters who qualify for either their Regional Championship or the National Championship in both Team Policy and Lincoln-Douglas Value Debate must choose one of these styles of debate in which to participate at that tournament.

- Team Policy debaters may compete and qualify with different partners during the competitive season but must choose only one of those qualified partners with whom to participate at the next level tournament (either the Regional Championship or the National Championship).

Timekeeping

- Each team must provide at least one digital timepiece.

- Phones or other electronic devices are not to be used.

- The speaker at the podium will time his own speeches.

- The speaker asking questions will time during cross-examination.

- The timepiece must count down and have an audible alarm during speeches and cross-examination.

- The speaker may not turn off the alarm and continue speaking.

- Each team will track their own prep time and must report their remaining prep time to the judge(s) and opposing team at the conclusion of each prep time.

Tabulation

Tabulation Rules will be followed at NCFCA tournaments and can be found in the Resource Library on the NCFCA website.

SPEECH COMPETITION

Script Submission

Scripts for all platform and interpretation events must be submitted electronically prior to competition for each tournament per the Script Rules and must be followed during all competition rounds. The script must be submitted before the competitor will be allowed to compete. Script Rules can be found in Appendix B and in the Resource Library on the NCFCA website.

Rules

All General Speech Rules and Speech Event Rules will be followed at NCFCA tournaments. These can be found in Appendix B and in the Resource Library on the NCFCA website.

Limitations

- A competitor may participate in a maximum of five speech events at any given tournament with two exceptions:

  - A Moot Court competitor at a National Mixer or National Open will be limited to two speech events not to include Extemporaneous.

  - A Regional Championship competitor may compete in any event for which he has qualified.

- A competitor may only register once in each event at any given tournament.

- A competitor may not participate with two different partners at the same tournament in Duo.

- A Duo Interpretation competitor may compete and qualify with different partners during the competitive season but must choose only one of those qualified partners with whom to participate at the next level tournament (either the Regional Championship or the National Championship).

- A competitor may not enter the same speech in more than one event at the same tournament; however, the speech may be entered in a different category at a different tournament. If the speech qualifies to the next level tournament (either the Regional Championship or the National Championship) in more than one category, the competitor must choose only one category in which he will perform the piece at the higher level of competition.

- At the Regional Championship or the National Championship, a competitor must perform the same piece that he performed when the invitation to compete at that tournament was awarded. In other words, it is the combination of both the piece and the person that is awarded an invitation to the higher level of competition. Minor revisions, such as changing examples, stories, or analytical rhetoric in a platform speech or revising a cutting to an interpretation, are allowed. The competitor should not go so far as to change the main points of his speech or take a cut from a different section of his literary selection as he is preparing for advanced competition with a speech that has already qualified.

Timekeeping

- Limited Preparation Events
    - Each competition room will be supplied with a digital timepiece.
    - Preparation Time: Apologetics and Impromptu
        - The speaker will set the timepiece to the designated preparation time.
        - The Head Judge will confirm that the time has been accurately set.
        - As the topic card is drawn, the speaker will start the timepiece to count down.
        - The speaker may take the timepiece to the preparation area.
        - The speaker will clear the timepiece at the end of preparation time and return it to the head judge.
    - Preparation time: Extemporaneous
        - Preparation time will take place in the Extemporaneous Preparation room.
        - Preparation time will begin at the student's assigned draw time.
    - Speech delivery time: Apologetics, Extemporaneous, Impromptu
        - The Head Judge will start the timepiece to count up at the beginning of the speech.
        - The timepiece will face the speaker.
        - The Head Judge will stop the timepiece at the conclusion of the speech.
        - The Head Judge will report the time exactly as recorded on the timepiece to the judges and speaker.
- Prepared Events
    - Each competition room will be supplied with a digital timepiece.
    - The Head Judge will start the timepiece to count up at the beginning of the speech.
    - The timepiece will face the Head Judge and must not be visible to the speaker.
    - No time signals of any kind are to be given.
    - The Head Judge will stop the timepiece at the conclusion of the speech.
    - The Head Judge will report the time exactly as recorded on the timepiece to the judges and speaker.

Tabulation

Tabulation Rules will be followed at NCFCA tournaments and can be found in the Resource Library on the NCFCA website.

MOOT COURT COMPETITION

Rules

All Moot Court Rules will be followed at NCFCA tournaments. These can be found in Appendix C and in the Resource Library on the NCFCA website.

Limitations

- Competitors may choose to participate solely in Moot Court or in addition to other events at a National Mixer, a National Open, or the National Championship.

- Competitors may not participate with two different partners at the same tournament in Moot Court.

- Moot Court competitors may compete and qualify with different partners during the competitive season but must choose only one of those qualified partners with whom to participate at the National Championship.

Timekeeping

- Tournament staff will provide a courtroom clerk with a Moot Court Time Allocation Sheet, time cards, and a digital timepiece to keep time for the round.

- Time cards will be displayed by the clerk to indicate the time remaining according to the instructions on the Time Allocation Sheet.

- The clerk will not verbally announce that time has expired.

- Complete Moot Court Clerk Instructions and Time Allocation Sheet can be found in Appendix C or the Resource Library on the NCFCA website.

Tabulation

Tabulation Rules will be followed at NCFCA tournaments and can be found in the Resource Library on the NCFCA website.

ADJUDICATION

While we anticipate that all participants will follow the prescribed rules and policies, in an environment where rules exist, protocols must be in place to address issues of noncompliance. In the case of an alleged infraction, the Compliance team at the tournament will gather and report information to the Regional Director or Tournament Director, who will determine the validity of the violation, consult with the Director of Forensics, and issue any consequences under the direction of the National Adjudication Team.

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

- Tabulation data is confidential except for tournament results that are publicly announced.

- Tournament results announced at the tournament will be posted to the NCFCA website following the tournament.

QUALIFICATION

NCFCA offers a unique system of qualification to Regional Championships and the National Championship.

- Invitations to Regional Championships are awarded to any debate or speech competitor who advances to elimination rounds or is recognized at an Awards Ceremony at a Regional or District Qualifier, a National Mixer, or a National Open.

- Invitations to the National Championship are awarded through National Mixers, National Opens, Regional Championships, and the National At-Large System.

The complete Qualification System can be found in Appendix D or in the Resource Library on the NCFCA website.

APPEALS

Matters Not Eligible for Appeal

Adjudication decisions rendered by the National Adjudication Team during the tournament are not eligible for appeal.

Matters Eligible for Appeal

Appeals may be brought to NCFCA for either a suspected tabulation error or a suspected ethics issue that comes to light post-tournament.

- **Filing Process.** Any appeal that meets the above criteria must be made in writing and include the complete name and contact information of the appealing party along with a brief description of the concern and any relevant documentation. This appeal must be emailed to the Director of Forensics at DirofForensics@NCFCA.org.

- **Time Frame.** All tabulation appeals must be filed within 72 hours of the close of the Awards Ceremony. Concerns of an ethical nature must be brought to the attention of NCFCA as soon as possible but are not subject to a time limitation.

- **Resolution.** Any properly filed appeal will be carefully considered by the Director of Forensics, the National Adjudication Team, and the Executive Director. After investigation and assessment of all available and relevant information, the NCFCA leadership will render a decision and inform the affected parties. This decision will be final, and no other consideration will be made for this issue.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

NCFCA tournaments are made possible by every parent and chaperone volunteering throughout the tournament in one of the following ways:

JUDGING

Parents, guardians, and designated chaperones will report to the Ballot Distribution table thirty minutes prior to the beginning of each round to determine if they are needed to judge.

BALLOT DISTRIBUTION

Prior to each round, Ballot Distribution staff will distribute ballots to the available judge pool in a manner consistent with the NCFCA Judge Philosophy, with priority given to balancing the judge panels between various types of judges.

BALLOT RETURN

After each round, Ballot Return staff will collect ballots and worksheets from judges, checking for accuracy and completion before sending the ballot packets to be tabulated.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications staff will facilitate any necessary communication regarding activity throughout the facility, as well as maintain order in the competition areas and ensure that rooms are prepared for the next round of competition.

COMPLIANCE

In order to ensure fair competition, Compliance staff will answer questions from judges, investigate any reported issues, and communicate any necessary adjudications from the National Adjudication Team.

EXTEMPORANEOUS PREPARATION

Extemporaneous Preparation Staff will oversee the Extemp Prep room and monitor for access, noise, and prep room protocol adherence.

FACILITIES

Facilities Staff will ensure that the building is set up for competition, is kept clean, and is returned to the condition and the configuration in which it was found.

HOSPITALITY

Hospitality staff will provide a warm and inviting atmosphere, facilitating light meals and snacks for community and alumni judges.

JUDGE LIAISON

Judge Liaison staff will guide community judges through their tournament experience and will facilitate a Judge Training session before each round of the tournament.

JUDGE RECRUITMENT

Parents and students should be willing to recruit judges in order to ensure a successful tournament. A Judge Coordinator oversees recruitment efforts by providing resources and organizing outreach.

JUNIOR COORDINATION

Junior Coordination staff will organize tournament activities for younger students.

LOGISTICS

Logistics staff organizes and executes a multitude of administrative tasks, ensuring that all resources needed for the tournament are available.

MEALS COORDINATION

Meals staff will organize and serve meals that have been pre-purchased by participating families.

TABULATION

Tabulation Staff will tabulate all tournament results, following the NCFCA Tabulation Rules.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS NCFCA

How will I receive league updates and important information?

NCFCA has two primary means of sharing league updates and important information with Affiliates:

- **Email.** To help ensure delivery of email, add NCFCA.org to your approved sender list and be sure to accurately enter adult and student email addresses on your account. Check your email regularly to learn about time-sensitive deadlines. NCFCA respects your privacy and never sells Affiliate information. From time to time, we do share opportunities from our partners with Affiliates. If you do not wish to receive these third-party emails, you may choose to opt out via the button on your profile page.

- **www.NCFCA.org.** As an Affiliate, you can log in to the website. From your dashboard you can modify your profile, view and register for competitive opportunities, access resources, and purchase products in the NCFCA store.

Whom should I contact if I need assistance?

Account Information (Affiliation, Login/Emails, Benefits)	Office@NCFCA.org
Debate Suggestions or Questions	DebateCommittee@NCFCA.org
Moot Court Suggestions or Questions	MootCourt@NCFCA.org
Speech Suggestions or Questions	SpeechCommittee@NCFCA.org
Sponsorships	DirOfMarketing@NCFCA.org
Tournament Registration	Registrar@NCFCA.org
Tournaments (National Mixers, Opens,or Championship)	Director of Forensics: DirOfForensics@NCFCA.org
Tournaments (Regional or District Tournaments)	Regional Director: Region7RD@NCFCA.org (Insert correct Arabic numeral for your region.)
Tournament App	TournamentApp@NCFCA.org
Website/Technology	Office@NCFCA.org

APPENDIX A: DEBATE DOCUMENTS

All Debate Documents can be found in the NCFCA Resource Library on the NCFCA website.

TEAM POLICY AND LINCOLN-DOUGLAS VALUE DEBATE

Team Policy and Lincoln-Douglas Value Debate Rules

Team Policy and Lincoln-Douglas Value Debate Evidence Citation Guidelines

Team Policy and Lincoln-Douglas Value Debate Speaker Point Guide

TEAM POLICY DEBATE

Team Policy Ballot

Team Policy Flow Sheet

Team Policy Timekeeping Worksheet

LINCOLN-DOUGLAS VALUE DEBATE

Lincoln-Douglas Value Ballot

Lincoln-Douglas Value Flow Sheet

Lincoln-Douglas Value Timekeeping Worksheet

Debate Rules
Team Policy and Lincoln-Douglas Value

1. **Delivery.** Delivery should be civil and comprehensible. Conversational-style debate is valued.

2. **Content.** Content for all debates must be in keeping with the NCFCA mission statement. Discretion should be exercised when determining material for competition.

   - **Content** should enhance the judge's understanding of the topic.

   - **Opinions contrary to those of the judge** may be expressed.

   - **Explicit material** should not be included for shock value.

   - **Vulgarity** is never acceptable.

3. **Reasoning.** Arguments should be supported with what a general listener would consider "good reasons." Analysis, explanation, and appeals to common sense are considered acceptable strategy.

4. **Evidence.** Use of evidence adds validity to the debater's arguments in both styles of debate. Evidence consists of facts, documentation, or testimony of others whether directly quoted or summarized.

   a. **Evidence presented in the round must be physically present** in the debate room and available for examination by the judge or other team, if requested. Sources for evidence must be verifiable via public means.

   b. **Evidence presented in the round must be properly cited**.

      - **Printed evidence** must contain the full citation including source, publication name, and publication date. Sample citation formatting is available in the Debate Rules Appendix.

      - **Sources for evidence presented in the round** must be verbally mentioned in the delivery of the speech.

      - **Common knowledge** that is known to most people does not need to be cited in any way.

   c. **Evidence must be presented in a manner consistent with its use and context in the original source material.** If evidence presented verbally includes strikeouts, then the complete and easily readable form of that evidence should also be physically available for examination, if requested.

d. **Distorting evidence** is prohibited. Distorting evidence is representing evidence in a way that alters the author's meaning and includes, but is not limited to:

- **Using only a portion** of the entire quote in such a way that it is no longer consistent with the author's position throughout the entire article without making that clear to the listener.

- **Changing words** within the quote. This includes changing words like "might" to "will," or "could" to "is."

- **Summarizing a quote** but presenting it as a direct quote from the author.

e. **Fabricating evidence** is prohibited and includes, but is not limited to:

- **Asserting as fact** information that cannot be found in a published source.

- **Manufacturing** articles, quotes, or dates.

f. **A debater may request evidence presented in the round** from the opposing team, but only during his own speech, cross-examination time, or prep time.

- **A written copy of the entire piece of evidence** must be promptly provided by the opposing team.

- **Debaters may not interact between tables** while a speaker is at the podium except for evidence exchange initiated by the speaker.

g. **A judge may request to review one or more specific pieces of evidence** presented in the round for clarification or accuracy by speaking with a Compliance Staff member at the end of the round.

h. **Discussion outside of the round** is not permitted between the debaters and the judge regarding evidence or the round.

i. **Debate is primarily a verbal activity**. Exhibits or visual aids are not permitted.

5. **Timekeeping.** Each team must provide at least one digital timepiece.

- **Phones or other electronic devices** are not to be used.

- **The speaker at the podium** will time his own speeches.

- **The speaker asking questions** will time during cross-examination.

- **The timepiece** must count down and have an audible alarm during speeches and cross-examination.

- **The speaker** may not turn off the alarm and continue speaking.

- **Each team will track their own prep time** and must report their remaining prep time to the judge(s) and opposing team at the conclusion of each prep time.

6. **Speaking order and time.** Speakers must adhere to prescribed speaking order and times.

Team Policy Speeches	Time
1st Affirmative Constructive (1AC)	8 minutes
Negative cross-examines Affirmative	3 minutes
1st Negative Constructive (1NC)	8 minutes
Affirmative cross-examines Negative	3 minutes
2nd Affirmative Constructive (2AC)	8 minutes
Negative cross-examines Affirmative	3 minutes
2nd Negative Constructive (2NC)	8 minutes
Affirmative cross-examines Negative	3 minutes
1st Negative Rebuttal (1NR)	5 minutes
1st Affirmative Rebuttal (1AR)	5 minutes
2nd Negative Rebuttal (2NR)	5 minutes
2nd Affirmative Rebuttal (2AR)	5 minutes

- The 1AC is cross-examined by the 2nd Negative speaker

- The 1NC is cross-examined by the 1st Affirmative speaker

- The 2AC is cross-examined by the 1st Negative speaker

- The 2NC is cross-examined by the 2nd Affirmative speaker

Lincoln-Douglas Value Speeches	Time
Affirmative Constructive (AC)	6 minutes
Negative cross-examines Affirmative	3 minutes
Negative Constructive (NC)	7 minutes
Affirmative cross-examines Negative	3 minutes
1st Affirmative Rebuttal (1AR)	4 minutes
Negative Rebuttal (NR)	6 minutes
2nd Affirmative Rebuttal (2AR)	3 minutes

7. **Preparation time.** Up to five minutes of preparation time for Team Policy and up to three minutes of preparation time for Lincoln-Douglas Value may be used by each team throughout the round prior to their constructive and rebuttal speeches. Prep time may not be used immediately before cross-examination.

8. **In and Out Speaking.** Switching the speaking order between partners is not permitted during a Team Policy Debate round. The 1AC speaker will deliver the 1AR; the 2AC will deliver the 2AR; the 1NC will deliver the 1NR, and the 2NC will deliver the 2NR. Each speaker will participate in his respective cross-examination role, both asking and answering questions.

9. **Tag Teaming.** A debater should rely upon his own reasoning while speaking in the round. In Team Policy Debate, with the exception of passing requested evidence requested by the speaker to his partner at the table, communicating with one's partner in any way while at the podium is not allowed.

10. **Electronic devices.** Debaters may not use electronic devices for notetaking or requesting, sending, or receiving information during the debate round.

11. **Audience influence.** An observer may not attempt to influence the outcome of a round in any way.

12. **Questions regarding potential rule violations** should be discussed with the Compliance Staff immediately following the debate round.

Debate Rules Appendix
Evidence Citation Guidelines

Academic integrity is foundational to our witness through the respect that we show others. Any work presented in competition is either original or clearly indicates the source of the information.

Evidence is a critical part of both Team Policy and Lincoln-Douglas Value Debate. Because debate rounds take place within a fixed time frame with no immediate access to verify the information presented, it is imperative that competitors exhibit the highest degree of academic integrity by citing essential source information verbally, by reading quotations verbatim, by differentiating the words of the author from the rhetoric of the speaker, and by having evidence with full citations readily available for inspection by the opposing team or judge.

The sample formats below serve as models, not as mandates, for source citations and include:

- Printed citations: reduced-size font, in-text or footnote
- Verbal citations: underlined or highlighted
- Words not read into the round: reduced font
- Words read into the round: bold font that may be enlarged

Sample Format #1 (in-text full citation, underlined verbal citation, bolded quotation)

Printed Citation:
Set apart in reduced font and includes available information.

Sheila Page and Adrian Hewitt. (Senior Research Associates for the Overseas Development Institute in London) "World commodity prices: Still a problem for developing countries?" Overseas Development Institute, London, 2001, p.1. https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/2420.pdf. Accessed June 2018.

Verbal Citation:
Set apart in 12-point, underlined font; includes the source (required), publication name, and date (encouraged, but not required).

<u>Sheila Page and Adrian Hewitt, Senior Research Associates for the Overseas Development Institute in London, wrote in 2001:</u>

Direct Quotation:
Indented and set apart in quotation marks.
- Words that will not be read set apart in reduced-size font.
- Words that will be read set apart in 12-point, bolded font.

"But there are additional difficulties: while commodities may be important to them, their own production is often a small share of world markets, so they depend on decisions by others. **Commodity production does not offer a clear path for developing countries wishing to upgrade the value added of their output and the skills of their labour forces. In many countries, the producers and workers directly affected by commodity exports are among the poorest parts of the population. Price falls or fluctuations affecting them put exceptional strains on efforts to reduce poverty.**"

John Rawls. (Harvard professor and University of Oxford fellow) *A Theory of Justice.* Revised ed., Harvard University Press, 1999, p. 3.

Renowned philosopher John Rawls, Harvard professor and University of Oxford fellow, wrote in his 1971 book *A Theory of Justice:*

> **"Justice is the first virtue of social institutions, as truth is of systems of thought. A theory however elegant and economical must be rejected or revised if it is untrue; likewise, laws and institutions no matter how efficient and well-arranged must be reformed or abolished if they are unjust. Each person possesses an inviolability founded on justice that even the welfare of society as a whole cannot override. For this reason, justice denies that the loss of freedom for some is made right by a greater good shared by others. It does not allow that the sacrifices imposed on a few are outweighed by the larger sum of advantages enjoyed by many."**

Gregory A. Wagner. (J.D. Candidate, 2016, The University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law; Editor-in-Chief, The University of Memphis Law Review, Volume 46; Captain, United States Marine Corps) "Warheads on Foreheads: The Applicability of the 9/11 AUMF to the Threat of ISIL." University of Memphis Law Review, vol. 46, no. 1, 2015. Accessed June 2018 from HeinOnline https://heinonline.org/HOL/P?h=hein.journals/umem46&i=275.

Gregory A. Wagner, J.D. Candidate and Captain in the United States Marine Core stated in 2015:

> "The 9/11 AUMF was enacted in response to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States. It authorizes military action against 'those nations, organizations, or persons' who 'planned, authorized, committed, or aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001, or harbored such organizations.' While the 9/11 AUMF can perhaps be stretched into authorizing the strikes against ISIL based on a tenuous link to the 9/11 attacks, this was likely not the intent of Congress **when it passed the 9/11 AUMF. Congress intended to pursue those who were responsible for the September 11, 2001 attacks and prevent them from attacking U.S. soil again. Fourteen years later, this authorization should not be cited for authorization to enter into a new, large-scale conflict against a group that is not directly linked to the September 11, 2001 attacks.** Although the actions of ISIL are atrocious, **the Constitution mandates positive actions on behalf of Congress and the nation deserves a debate and clear authorizations to engage in armed conflict. Allowing the President to enter a large-scale armed conflict without the consent of Congress is dangerous, because it avoids the checks and balances prescribed by the Constitution."**

Sample Format #2 (footnote full citation, underlined verbal citation, bolded quotation)

Sheila Page and Adrian Hewitt, Senior Research Associates for the Overseas Development Institute in London, wrote in 2001:

"But there are additional difficulties: while commodities may be important to them, their own production is often a small share of world markets, so they depend on decisions by others. **Commodity production does not offer a clear path for developing countries wishing to upgrade the value added of their output and the skills of their labour forces. In many countries, the producers and workers directly affected by commodity exports are among the poorest parts of the population. Price falls or fluctuations affecting them put exceptional strains on efforts to reduce poverty.**"[1]

Renowned philosopher John Rawls, Harvard professor and University of Oxford fellow, wrote in his 1971 book *A Theory of Justice:*

"Justice is the first virtue of social institutions, as truth is of systems of thought. A theory however elegant and economical must be rejected or revised if it is untrue; likewise laws and institutions no matter how efficient and well-arranged must be reformed or abolished if they are unjust. Each person possesses an inviolability founded on justice that even the welfare of society as a whole cannot override. For this reason justice denies that the loss of freedom for some is made right by a greater good shared by others. It does not allow that the sacrifices imposed on a few are outweighed by the larger sum of advantages enjoyed by many."[2]

[1]Sheila Page and Adrian Hewitt. (Senior Research Associates for the Overseas Development Institute in London) "World commodity prices: Still a problem for developing countries?" Overseas Development Institute, London, 2001, p.1. https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/2420.pdf. Accessed June 2018.

[2]John Rawls. (Harvard professor and University of Oxford fellow) *A Theory of Justice.* Revised ed., Harvard University Press, 1999, p. 3.

<u>Gregory A. Wagner, J.D. Candidate and Captain in the United States Marine Core, stated in 2015:</u>

> "The 9/11 AUMF was enacted in response to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States. It authorizes military action against 'those nations, organizations, or persons' who 'planned, authorized, committed, or aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001, or harbored such organizations.' While the 9/11 AUMF can perhaps be stretched into authorizing the strikes against ISIL based on a tenuous link to the 9/11 attacks, this was likely not the intent of Congress **when it passed the 9/11 AUMF. Congress intended to pursue those who were responsible for the September 11, 2001 attacks and prevent them from attacking U.S. soil again. Fourteen years later, this authorization should not be cited for authorization to enter into a new, large-scale conflict against a group that is not directly linked to the September 11, 2001 attacks.** Although the actions of ISIL are atrocious, **the Constitution mandates positive actions on behalf of Congress and the nation deserves a debate and clear authorizations to engage in armed conflict. Allowing the President to enter a large-scale armed conflict without the consent of Congress is dangerous, because it avoids the checks and balances prescribed by the Constitution."**[3]

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[3]Gregory A. Wagner. (J.D. Candidate, 2016, The University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law; Editor-in-Chief, The University of Memphis Law Review, Volume 46; Captain, United States Marine Corps) "Warheads on Foreheads: The Applicability of the 9/11 AUMF to the Threat of ISIL." University of Memphis Law Review,vol. 46, no. 1, 2015. Accessed June 2018 from HeinOnline https://heinonline.org/HOL/P?h=hein.journals/umem46&i=275.

Verbal Citation:
Set apart in 12-point, underlined font; includes the source (required), publication name, and date (encouraged, but not required).

Direct Quotation:
Indented and set apart in quotation marks
- Words that will not be read set apart in reduced-size font
- Words that will be read set apart in 12-point, bolded font

Printed Citation:
Set apart as a footnote at the bottom of the page and includes available information

Speaker Point Scoring Guide
Team Policy and Lincoln-Douglas Value Debate

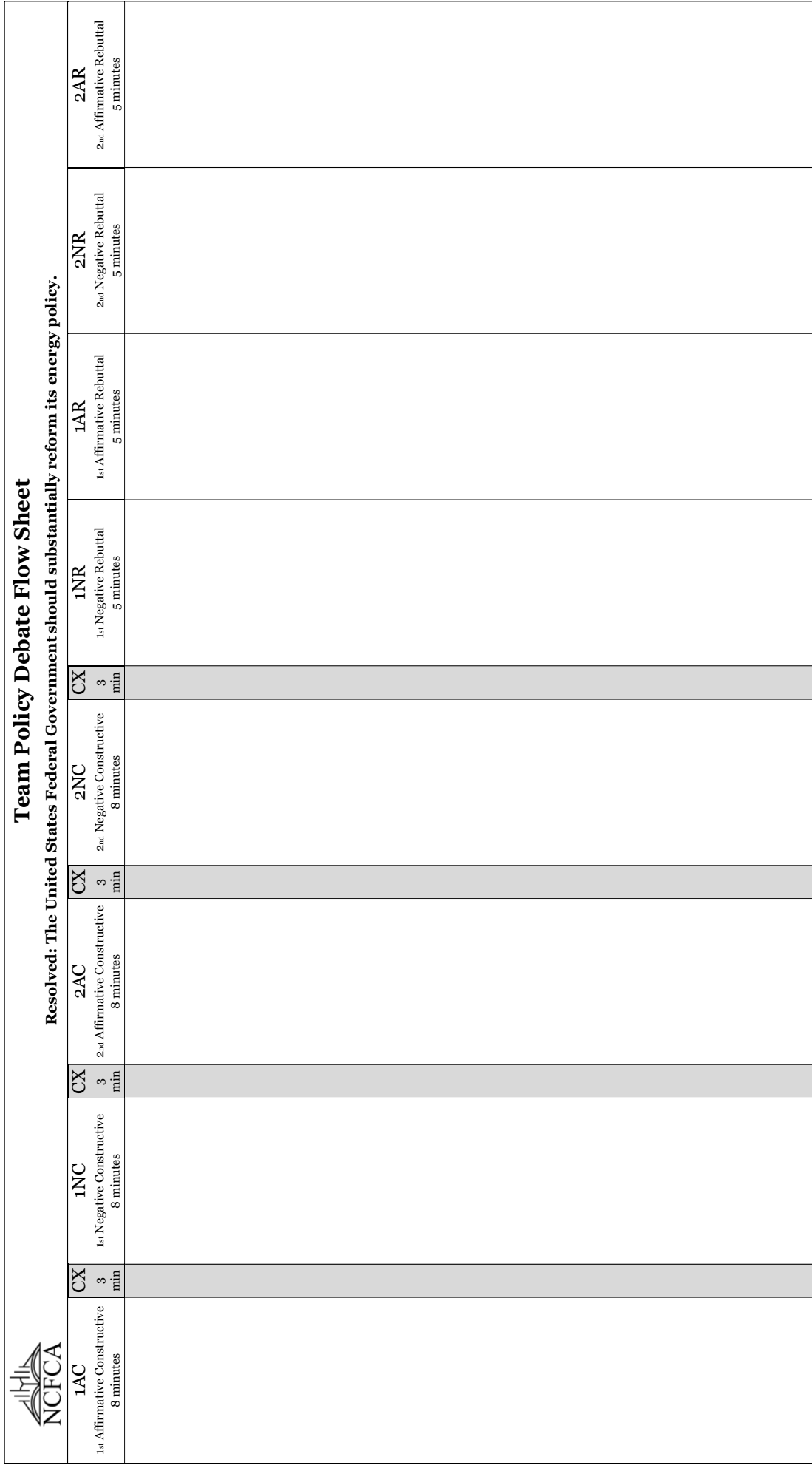| Speaker Points	1 (Poor)	2 (Fair)	3 (Average)	4 (Excellent)	5 (Superior)
Persuasiveness	Poor speaker whose arguments lack logic and believability.	Fair speaker with moments of clarity but also moments of confusion.	Average speaker who presents ideas that can be followed and understood.	Excellent speaker. Arguments are generally well constructed and easily understood.	Extremely convincing speaker who presents well-constructed and compelling arguments.
Organization	Speeches are disorganized and/or evidence is presented in a haphazard manner.	Speeches appear to have some structure but lack an overall connection between points.	Speeches, evidence, support, and arguments follow a general outline.	Speeches exhibit good organization of arguments, evidence, and support.	Speeches show superior organization of arguments, evidence, and support throughout the round.
Delivery/ Conduct	Speaker has a significant lack of confidence, distracting habits or mannerisms, and/or is condescending, arrogant, or abrasive.	Speaker has moments of confidence, but may also ramble or end speeches early and/or is somewhat abrasive.	Speaker presents clearly though not with full confidence and is generally well-mannered.	Speaker is confident, easy to listen to, and free from distracting habits. Well-mannered and courteous.	Highly polished speaker whose voice, volume, and gestures greatly enhance each speech. Gracious and winsome, respectful of opponent.
Evidence/ Support	Little or no evidence or logic used in support of arguments. Examples presented seem irrelevant.	Minimal evidence, examples, or logic used to support arguments. Evidence and support do not always relate to the issue at hand.	Most points supported by good evidence or reasoning, though some evidence or reasoning is confusing and irrelevant.	Consistent use of relevant evidence, examples, and logic to support the major points in the round.	Presents interesting and understandable evidence, examples, and/or reasoning in support of every major argument.
Cross-Examination	Unprepared to ask or answer questions and/or behaves in an extremely combative manner during cross-examination.	Asks confusing questions, gives vague and unconvincing answers, or is somewhat disrespectful during cross-examination.	Asks reasonable questions, gives effective answers, and is generally respectful.	Asks probing questions, gives compelling answers, and is generally very respectful.	Asks excellent questions that expose or weaken the opponent's arguments. Answers arguments persuasively and is always very respectful.
Refutation	Consistently misses, either by error or intent, the true points being made by the opponent.	Displays limited ability to identify and counter the opponent's arguments.	Correctly identifies most of the opponent's arguments and makes reasonable and thoughtful arguments in return.	Quickly and accurately makes sense of the opponent's major arguments and consistently responds with solid argumentation.	Exceptionally skilled in identifying the core of the opponent's arguments and presenting persuasive rebuttals to every argument.

NCFCA

Judge Name

Affirmative		**Negative**	

Name

1A

Speaker Rank
Best . . . . . Last
1 2 3 4

Speaker Points   Poor..............................Excellent

Persuasiveness	1	2	3	4	5
Organization	1	2	3	4	5
Delivery/Conduct	1	2	3	4	5
Evidence	1	2	3	4	5
Cross-Examination	1	2	3	4	5
Refutation	1	2	3	4	5

Total

Comments

Name

1N

Speaker Rank
Best . . . . . Last
1 2 3 4

Speaker Points   Poor..............................Excellent

Persuasiveness	1	2	3	4	5
Organization	1	2	3	4	5
Delivery/Conduct	1	2	3	4	5
Evidence	1	2	3	4	5
Cross-Examination	1	2	3	4	5
Refutation	1	2	3	4	5

Total

Comments

Name

2A

Speaker Rank
Best . . . . . Last
1 2 3 4

Speaker Points   Poor..............................Excellent

Persuasiveness	1	2	3	4	5
Organization	1	2	3	4	5
Delivery/Conduct	1	2	3	4	5
Evidence	1	2	3	4	5
Cross-Examination	1	2	3	4	5
Refutation	1	2	3	4	5

Total

Comments

Name

2N

Speaker Rank
Best . . . . . Last
1 2 3 4

Speaker Points   Poor..............................Excellent

Persuasiveness	1	2	3	4	5
Organization	1	2	3	4	5
Delivery/Conduct	1	2	3	4	5
Evidence	1	2	3	4	5
Cross-Examination	1	2	3	4	5
Refutation	1	2	3	4	5

Total

Comments

Decision

Affirmative   ☐

☐

Negative   ☐

Double Loss

Reason for Decision

Judge Signature

Date

TP Ballot

TEMPLATE: Actual size is 8.5 x 14 inches.

Team Policy Debate Flow Sheet

Resolved: The United States Federal Government should substantially reform its energy policy.

NCFCA

1AC 1st Affirmative Constructive 8 minutes	CX 3 min	1NC 1st Negative Constructive 8 minutes	CX 3 min	2AC 2nd Affirmative Constructive 8 minutes	CX 3 min	2NC 2nd Negative Constructive 8 minutes	CX 3 min	1NR 1st Negative Rebuttal 5 minutes	1AR 1st Affirmative Rebuttal 5 minutes	2NR 2nd Negative Rebuttal 5 minutes	2AR 2nd Affirmative Rebuttal 5 minutes

TEMPLATE: Actual size is 8.5 x 14 inches.

NCFCA

Team Policy
Timekeeping Worksheet

INSTRUCTIONS

- *Enter the indicated time on the timepiece and press start.*
- *Check off the speeches as they are completed.*
- *Keep track of remaining prep time below. Each team receives a total of 5 minutes.*

SPEECHES	TIME
☐ 1AC	8:00
☐ CX of 1A by 2N	3:00
☐ **NEG Prep Time**	
☐ 1NC	8:00
☐ CX of 1N by 1A	3:00
☐ **AFF Prep Time**	
☐ 2AC	8:00
☐ CX of 2A by 1N	3:00
☐ **NEG Prep Time**	
☐ 2NC	8:00
☐ CX of 2N by 2A	3:00
☐ **NEG Prep Time**	
☐ 1NR	5:00
☐ **AFF Prep Time**	
☐ 1AR	5:00
☐ **NEG Prep Time**	
☐ 2NR	5:00
☐ **AFF Prep Time**	
☐ 2AR	5:00

PREP TIME

NEGATIVE Prep Time	Time on Timepiece
Start	5:00
End of 1st	
End of 2nd	
End of 3rd	
End of 4th	
AFFIRMATIVE Prep Time	**Time on Timepiece**
Start	5:00
End of 1st	
End of 2nd	
End of 3rd	

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NCFCA

Aff

Neg

Judge Name

Affirmative		Negative	

Name	Speaker Rank Best . . . . . Last 1 2	Name	Speaker Rank Best . . . . . Last 1 2

Speaker Points   Poor................................Excellent

Persuasiveness	1	2	3	4	5
Organization	1	2	3	4	5
Delivery/Conduct	1	2	3	4	5
Support	1	2	3	4	5
Cross-Examination	1	2	3	4	5
Refutation	1	2	3	4	5

Total

Speaker Points   Poor...............................Excellent

Persuasiveness	1	2	3	4	5
Organization	1	2	3	4	5
Delivery/Conduct	1	2	3	4	5
Support	1	2	3	4	5
Cross-Examination	1	2	3	4	5
Refutation	1	2	3	4	5

Total

Comments

Comments

Decision

Affirmative ☐   ☐   Negative ☐

Double Loss

Reason for Decision

Judge Signature

Date

LD Ballot

Lincoln-Douglas Value Debate Flow Sheet

Resolved: Preventive war is ethical.

NCFCA

AC Affirmative Constructive 6 minutes	CX 3 min	NC Negative Constructive 7 minutes	CX 3 min	1AR 1st Affirmative Rebuttal 4 minutes	NR Negative Rebuttal 6 minutes	2AR 2nd Affirmative Rebuttal 3 minutes

TEMPLATE: Actual size is 8.5 x 14 inches.

Lincoln-Douglas Value
Timekeeping Worksheet

NCFCA

INSTRUCTIONS

- *Enter the indicated time on the timepiece and press start.*
- *Check off the speeches as completed.*
- *Keep track of remaining prep time below. Each team receives a total of 3 minutes.*

SPEECHES	TIME
☐ AC	6:00
☐ CX of AFF by NEG	3:00
☐ **NEG Prep Time**	
☐ NC	7:00
☐ CX of NEG by AFF	3:00
☐ **AFF Prep Time**	
☐ 1AR	4:00
☐ **NEG Prep Time**	
☐ 1NR	6:00
☐ **AFF Prep Time**	
☐ 2AR	3:00

PREP TIME

NEGATIVE Prep Time	Time on Timepiece
Start	3:00
End of 1st Prep	
End of 2nd Prep	

AFFIRMATIVE Prep Time	Time on Timepiece
Start	3:00
End of 1st	
End of 2nd	

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APPENDIX B: SPEECH DOCUMENTS

All Speech Documents can be found in the NCFCA Resource Library on the NCFCA website.

GENERAL SPEECH RULES

APOLOGETICS

Apologetics Rules

Apologetics Ballot

Apologetics Topics

BIBLICAL THEMATIC

Biblical Thematic Rules

Interpretation Script Rules

Biblical Thematic Ballot

DIGITAL PRESENTATION

Digital Presentation Rules

Platform Script Rules

Digital Presentation Ballot

DUO

Duo Rules

Interpretation Script Rules

Duo Ballot

EXTEMPORANEOUS

Extemporaneous Rules

Extemporaneous Ballot

HUMOROUS

Humorous Rules

Interpretation Script Rules

Humorous Ballot

IMPROMPTU

Impromptu Rules

Impromptu Ballot

INFORMATIVE

Informative Rules

Platform Script Rules

Informative Ballot

OPEN

Open Rules

Interpretation Script Rules

Open Ballot

PERSUASIVE

Persuasive Rules

Platform Script Rules

Persuasive Ballots

General Speech Rules

1. **Script Rules** and **Event Rules** must be followed in addition to these General Speech Rules.

2. **Speeches** must be prepared by the student and, with the exception of Apologetics, must be delivered during the current competitive season only.

3. **Plagiarism** is prohibited. In both content and delivery, the speaker(s) must either present original work or present the source(s) for all non-original work, per the Event Rules.

4. **Content** for all speeches must be in alignment with the NCFCA mission and the Competition Material Policy.

   - **Humor** is permitted as long as it is in good taste.

   - **Dark material** is permitted only if it includes a redemptive element.

   - **Potentially intense or sensitive speeches** must always be preceded by the verbal disclaimer, "This speech contains potentially intense or sensitive material."

   - **Vulgarity** is never acceptable. Vulgarity includes explicit or implied language or gestures which are inappropriate, obscene, or profane.

   - **Opinions contrary to those of the judge** may be expressed.

5. **Gymnastics** are not permitted. Gymnastics includes acrobatic-type blocking such as flips, cartwheels, "leap frog," etc.

6. **Only feet** are permitted to intentionally touch the floor at any time in all speech events except Biblical Thematic.

7. **Costumes** are not permitted. Costumes include any item(s) worn in addition to the speaker's tournament attire.

8. **Lecterns** may not be used.

9. **Audience members, including judges, may not prompt** the speaker.

10. **Requesting participation from audience members, including judges,** is not permitted.

11. **A pre-show** is not permitted. A pre-show refers to rehearsed blocking, synchronized movement, or additional performance prior to the beginning of the submitted, scripted speech.

12. **All speeches should take place center stage**, and speakers should not infringe on the judges' table or personal space during the speech.

13. **Scripts** for all platform and interpretation events must be:
    - Submitted electronically prior to competition for each tournament per the Script Rules.
    - Followed during all competition rounds.

14. **Prescribed penalties for the following rule violations** will be applied by tournament administration and should not be reflected in the judge's original rank:
    - **Exceeding the maximum speech time** by more than 15 seconds for any speech category will result in a four-rank penalty at all levels of competition.
    - **Script or note use** during platform or interpretation speeches, with the exception of Biblical Thematic, will result in a four-rank penalty at a Qualifier, National Mixer, or National Open and disqualification from the event at a Regional or National Championship.

15. **All other questions regarding potential rule violations** should be discussed with the Compliance Staff immediately following the speech round.

Apologetics
Limited Preparation Speech

Apologetics is a limited preparation speech in which the speaker draws a topic and is given four minutes to prepare a six-minute speech that presents a well-reasoned defense of basic tenets of the Christian faith.

1. **General Speech Rules** must be followed in addition to these Event Rules.

2. **Topics** will be taken from those posted in the NCFCA Resource Library.

3. **Research** is permitted prior to the competition.

   - **Notes** may be written or printed on notecards (up to 5" x 6") and stored in the speaker's file box(es). The speaker may come into the event with as much preparation, research, and topic organization as desired.

   - **Notecards** and file box(es) may not be shared at the tournament.

4. **Preparation time** is limited to a four-minute maximum. **Speech time** is limited to a six-minute maximum.

5. **During preparation time:**

   - **The speaker** must prepare to speak on one of the two topics provided on the topic card.

   - **The chosen topic** may be underlined, but no notes may be written on the topic card.

   - **Notes** may be written on additional blank notecards (up to 5" x 6" in size).

   - **Phones and electronic devices** may not be used to access the internet or view materials.

   - **Only notecards** and **the Bible** may be used for reference.

   - **Unused preparation time** may not be added to the speech time.

6. **During the delivery of the speech:**

   - **The speaker** must speak on one of the two topics provided on the topic card.

   - **Only the chosen topic card** and **notecards** prepared previously or during preparation time may be held during the speech.

   - **The chosen topic** must be stated early in the speech.

   - **The gospel** may be, but is not required to be, presented.

   - **Sources for supporting material** used within the speech must be verbally mentioned in the speech.

Apologetics Ballot

NCFCA

Speaker:	Judge:
Topic:	Round: Room:
Speech Length:	*Please check the box next to your assessment of each category and provide feedback in the boxes below.*

Content	☐ Poor	☐ Fair	☐ Good	☐ Excellent	☐ Superior

- States the chosen topic and adheres to it
- Relates a clear thesis and presents a well-reasoned defense of the topic
- Supports assertions with Scripture and other credible sources, including citations when necessary, sound logic, and/or relevant examples

Comments:

Organization	☐ Poor	☐ Fair	☐ Good	☐ Excellent	☐ Superior

- Captivates the audience with an engaging introduction and a compelling conclusion
- Balances the development of each main point and integrates fluid transitions
- Demonstrates a coherent flow and uses time effectively

Comments:

Vocal Delivery	☐ Poor	☐ Fair	☐ Good	☐ Excellent	☐ Superior

- Communicates sincerely and conversationally
- Demonstrates accurate pronunciation and articulation
- Varies volume, rate, and pitch

Comments:

Physical Delivery	☐ Poor	☐ Fair	☐ Good	☐ Excellent	☐ Superior

- Appears professional, poised, and passionate
- Exhibits good posture, movement, and gestures
- Displays appropriate eye contact and facial expressions

Comments:

Impact	☐ Poor	☐ Fair	☐ Good	☐ Excellent	☐ Superior

- Communicates the relevance of the topic
- Discusses the topic with well-reasoned analysis
- Establishes rapport with the audience, expressing conviction in a winsome manner

Comments:

Rank*

Please rank the speaker on the judge worksheet and then check the corresponding box below:

☐ 1st   ☐ 2nd   ☐ 3rd   ☐ 4th   ☐ 5th and below

Reflects the speaker's rank prior to any applicable penalties

Apologetics Topics

Category 1: EXISTENCE AND NATURE OF GOD

Definitions

1. Explain the meaning and significance of the trinity.
2. Explain the meaning and significance of the omniscience of God.
3. Explain the meaning and significance of the omnipotence of God.
4. Explain the meaning and significance of the omnipresence of God.
5. Explain the meaning and significance of the transcendence and immanence of God.
6. Explain the meaning and significance of the righteousness of God.
7. Explain the meaning and significance of the sovereignty of God.
8. Explain the meaning and significance of the grace of God.

General Questions

1. If God is real, why can't people see or touch Him?
2. If God is holy, why did He allow evil in the world?
3. How can God be both merciful and just?
4. Why is the unchanging nature of God critical to who He is?
5. Why do bad things happen to good people?
6. What is the role of the Holy Spirit?

Statement Analysis

1. Analyze and respond to the statement, "The Old Testament God is a God of hate while the New Testament God is a God of love." — Anonymous
2. Analyze and respond to the statement, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." — A.W. Tozer[1]
3. Analyze and respond to the statement, "God set the universe in motion but He has no interest in it." — Anonymous
4. Analyze and respond to the statement, "As an atheist, I don't believe there is a God." — Anonymous

Apologetics Topics

Category 2: SCRIPTURES

Definitions
1. Explain the meaning and significance of inerrancy.
2. Explain the meaning and significance of verbal, plenary inspiration of Scripture.
3. Explain the meaning and significance of divine inspiration.
4. Explain the meaning and significance of the biblical canon.

General Questions
1. Jesus clearly demonstrated His belief in the authority of Scriptures. Defend this statement with evidence.
2. If the Bible was written by men, how could it also be written by God?
3. How can the Bible be trustworthy when it has been translated so many times?
4. Is the Old Testament a reliable historical document?
5. Is the New Testament a reliable historical document?
6. Did the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls affirm or deny the accuracy of the Old Testament?
7. Why are there parallel myths to the biblical narrative in other religions?
8. Are Scripture and Science in conflict?

Statement Analysis
1. Analyze and respond to the statement, "The Bible is no different than any other holy book." — Anonymous
2. Analyze and respond to the statement, "The Bible is simply the work of a great conspiracy, where people sought to create a religion of their own." — Anonymous
3. Analyze and respond to the statement, "We can't believe in a Bible that is full of contradictions." — Anonymous
4. Analyze and respond to the statement, "It is arrogant to claim to know truth." — Anonymous

Apologetics Topics

Category 3: THE NATURE, PURPOSE, AND DESTINY OF MAN

Definitions
1. Explain the meaning and significance of the image of God.
2. Explain the meaning and significance of the depravity of man.
3. Explain the meaning and significance of original sin.
4. Explain the meaning and significance of sanctification.
5. Explain the meaning and significance of repentance.
6. Explain the meaning and significance of the regeneration.

General Questions
1. Do all men have a longing for God?
2. Do all men have a conscience?
3. If man is inherently sinful, why do many men lead relatively good lives?
4. What is the purpose of man?
5. Why would a loving God create hell?
6. What is the purpose of prayer?

Statement Analysis
1. Analyze and respond to the statement, "All men were born with ten fingers and toes, but no one was born with the knowledge of God." — Voltaire[2]
2. Analyze and respond to the statement, "If God understands my humanity and sin nature better than I do, why does He still hold me accountable?" - Anonymous
3. Analyze and respond to the statement, "When man dies, he simply ceases to exist. There is no immortality or eternal life." — Anonymous
4. Analyze and respond to the statement, "All matter, energy, and life are an interconnected unity of which we are an inseparable part." — World Pantheism Movement[3]
5. Analyze and respond to the statement, "Religion is as much a living spring of violence today as it was at any time in the past." — Sam Harris[4]
6. Analyze and respond to the statement, "All human beings go through a previous life." — Honore Balzac[5]

Apologetics Topics

Category 4: SALVATION or HOW TO KNOW GOD

Definitions

1. Explain the meaning and significance of justification.
2. Explain the meaning and significance of atonement.
3. Explain the meaning and significance of redemption.
4. Explain the meaning and significance of reconciliation.

General Questions

1. How can a man know God?
2. Can a man become right with God by keeping the Ten Commandments?
3. Isn't it narrow minded to believe there is only one way to heaven?
4. Why does man need salvation?
5. What is the purpose of the church?
6. How do you know that there is absolute truth?

Statement Analysis

1. Analyze and respond to the statement, "It doesn't matter what you believe as long as you are sincere." — Anonymous
2. Analyze and respond to the statement, "Faith is the great cop-out, the great excuse to evade the need to think and evaluate evidence." — Richard Dawkins[6]
3. Analyze and respond to the statement, "I believe I will go to heaven because I have lived a pretty good life." — Anonymous
4. Analyze and respond to the statement, "I don't want to be saved because I would need to give up the things I enjoy." — Anonymous
5. Analyze and respond to the statement, "I am not sure I want to be a Christian, as Christians are hypocritical, intolerant, and judgmental." — Anonymous
6. Analyze and respond to the statement, "I don't need to go to church. I can worship God wherever I am." — Anonymous

Apologetics Topics

Category 5: THE PERSON OF CHRIST

Definitions
1. What is the meaning and significance of the deity of Christ?
2. What is the meaning and significance of the Incarnation?
3. What is the meaning and significance of Jesus as the Mediator?
4. What is the meaning and significance of Jesus as the Messiah?
5. What is the meaning and significance of Jesus as the Word of God?

General Questions
1. Why is the resurrection essential to the Christian faith?
2. If God is infinite, how could He limit Himself in the person of Christ?
3. How could Jesus be both God and man?
4. Why did Jesus have to die to provide salvation for men?
5. What evidence is there for the historical existence of Jesus?
6. What evidence is there for the resurrection of Jesus?
7. What was the purpose of the miracles that Jesus performed?

Statement Analysis
1. Analyze and respond to the statement, "Jesus' life and death are merely examples to us that we should all live sacrificial lives." — Anonymous
2. Analyze and respond to the statement, "Jesus was a good man and a good teacher, but certainly not the Son of God." — Anonymous
3. Analyze and respond to the statement, "Justice has not been served by Jesus' substitutionary atonement." — Anonymous
4. Analyze and respond to the statement, "We have much to learn from the Jesus of the Gnostic gospels." — Anonymous

Apologetics Topics

Works Cited

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Pantheism Today. 9 Dec. 2009. Web. 15 July 2001
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[4] Harris, Sam. *The End of Faith: Religion, Terror, and the Future of Reason*. New York:
W.W. Norton, 2004. Print.

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Aug 2011. <http://hinduism.about.com/od/reincarnation/a/quotes_2.htm>.

[6] Dawkins, Richard. "Richard Dawkins Quotes." *ThinkExist*. N.p., n.d. Web. 18 Jul 2011.
<http://thinkexist.com/search/searchquotation.asp?search=faith+is+the+greatest+cop-
out>.

Biblical Thematic
Event Rules
Interpretation Speech

1. **General Speech Rules** and **Script Rules** must be followed in addition to these Event Rules.

2. **Speech time** is limited to a 10-minute maximum.

3. **Three or more literature selections,** which may include plays, prose, songs, or poetry, must be analyzed and developed as a unique, original performance.

   - Each selection must be separate, not woven together.

   - Each selection may be used up to two times.

   - **Unique and original performance** indicates that cutting, blocking, characterizations, etc. should be developed primarily by the speaker.

4. **When choosing selections:**

   a. **At least one Scripture selection with a minimum of 300 words must be presented.**

      ○ **Scripture selection(s) must remain unaltered.**

      ○ **Only traditional Bibles** may be used. Chronological or topical Bibles may not be used.

      ○ **Only KJV, NKJV, ESV, NIV, or NASB** translations may be used.

      ○ **Chapter headings, commentary, etc.** added by the publisher are not considered to be Scripture and must not be included in the selection(s) of Scripture.

   b. **One or more non-original, published selection(s) may be presented.**

      ○ **Non-original** indicates that the literature selection is not written by the speaker.

      ○ **Published** indicates a work of an author which is available to the public. Published does not include material from blogs or social media, or works which are solely audio or video recordings, movies, TV, or radio.

c. **One self-authored selection may be presented.**

   ○ **Self-authored** indicates an original work of the speaker (i.e., not an adaptation of an existing piece from another author).

5. **When introducing or analyzing the selection(s) in the narrative sections:**

   ● **Up to 300 total words** may be added as introduction, transitional analysis, and/or conclusion.

   ● **Clear distinction** must be made between the narrative sections and the literature selections.

   ● **The title, author, and/or biblical reference(s)** of each selection must be verbally mentioned immediately before the selection; however, the title, author, and/or biblical reference of the first literature selection may follow a teaser. The title, author, and/or biblical reference(s) are not included in the 300-word count.

   ● **Sources for supporting material** must be verbally stated, parenthetically cited following the material in the script, and listed on the Works Cited page.

      ○ **Supporting material** includes another person's information, details, research, theories, stories, or ideas whether directly quoted or summarized.

      ○ **Common knowledge** that is known to most people does not need to be cited in any way.

   ● **Characterization and blocking** are permitted.

   ● **Original dialogue** must not be assigned to an author's character.

6. **When cutting a published literature selection other than Scripture:**

   ● **Combining phrases** from several sentences is permitted.

   ● **Adding single words** from nearby sentences is permitted for transition or character identification, but single words from separate sentences may not be strung together to create new sentences.

   ● **Repeating an author's words** is permitted even when an author does not do so.

   ● **Changing an author's words** is permitted only for pronoun substitution, verb tense, and subject-verb agreement.

   ● **Giving one character's lines** to another existing character is permitted, but new characters may not be created.

7. **When writing a self-authored literature selection**:

- **Sources for supporting material** do not necessarily need to be verbally stated, but must be parenthetically cited following the material in the script and listed on the Works Cited page.

  - **Supporting material** includes another person's information, details, research, theories, stories, or ideas whether directly quoted or summarized.

  - **Common knowledge** that is known to most people does not need to be cited in any way.

8. **When delivering the speech:**

- **A small binder** must be used.

  - **This binder** (approximately 6" x 9" x 1") **may contain** paper-based materials and page protectors.

  - **Speakers may read** from the binder and **may creatively use** the binder and its contents as visual aid(s).

  - **Citations for any non-original illustrations or images** used in the binder must be listed on the Works Cited page.

- **Visual aids**, other than the binder and its contents, are not permitted. Visual aids are items used to enhance the speech.

Interpretation Script Rules

Biblical Thematic, Duo, Humorous, Open

1. **General Speech Rules** and **specific Event Rules** must be followed in addition to these Interpretation Script Rules.

2. **An online script form** must be completed and certified by the speaker(s) and a parent/coach for each tournament.

3. **An interpretation script** must be uploaded electronically during the designated timeframe for each tournament. Scripts must be submitted in .doc or .docx (preferred), .pdf, .jpg, or .png format.

4. **An interpretation script** must include both a Format 1 (typed script) and a Format 2 (highlighted pages from the original source); however, self-authored scripts only require a Format 1.

5. **NCFCA's receipt of a submitted script** does not ensure rule compliance.

Format 1: Typed Script

6. **Format 1** must be typed in black font. Single-spaced scripts are not permitted. Colored URLs are acceptable.

7. **Words of singing** must be set apart in italicized font.

8. **Added words in an introduction, conclusion, or narrative section(s)** must be set apart in bold font.

9. **The title and author of the selection(s)** should not be included in the added word count.

10. **Sources for supporting material** must be:
    - **Underlined** where the speaker verbally mentions them
    - **Cited parenthetically** following the material
    - **Listed** on the Works Cited page

11. **Directly quoted supporting material** in an introduction, conclusion, and/or narrative section(s) must be included in the added word count and set apart in both bold font and quotation marks.

12. **Common knowledge** that is known to most people does not need to be cited in any way.

13. **A script-style format** (i.e., added stage directions, character names to identify lines, etc.) may not be used.

14. **A Works Cited page** must be submitted if supporting material is used. Citation elements such as author, title, publisher, date, website URL, etc. should be included if available. Suggested Works Cited page formats may be found on library or university websites.

Format 2: Original Source Material

15. **Pages** of the original source material must be submitted if they contain lines that are used in the typed script.

    Many copyrighted works may be used under the "fair use" doctrine for the purposes of interpretive competition events in an educational setting. Speakers are responsible for satisfying any requirements set forth by the publisher. For more information on copyright law, visit www.copyright.gov.

16. **Words** included in the script must be highlighted on the submitted pages.

17. **All words** must be legible, and no words may be crossed out.

Biblical Thematic Ballot

NCFCA

Speaker:	Judge:
Topic:	Round: Room:
Speech Length:	*Please check the box next to your assessment of each category and provide feedback in the boxes below.*

Content   ☐ Poor   ☐ Fair   ☐ Good   ☐ Excellent   ☐ Superior

- Organizes and presents a unified interpretive performance of three or more selections with literary merit (including Scripture) that demonstrate excellence in substance and style
- Thoughtfully analyzes each selection's contribution to a common theme
- Cites the titles and authors of literature selections and other sources if used

Comments:

Organization   ☐ Poor   ☐ Fair   ☐ Good   ☐ Excellent   ☐ Superior

- Uses narrative sections effectively
- Provides the necessary context to understand the actions and events
- Presents a unified total performance which creatively develops the theme, integrates the binder, and uses time effectively

Comments:

Characterization   ☐ Poor   ☐ Fair   ☐ Good   ☐ Excellent   ☐ Superior

- Consistently portrays distinct, realistic, and relatable characters and transitions smoothly between them
- Expresses vocal accent, volume, rate, and pitch for each character
- Exhibits the posture, gestures, and facial expressions of each character

Comments:

Blocking   ☐ Poor   ☐ Fair   ☐ Good   ☐ Excellent   ☐ Superior

- Creates distinct, realistic scenes in the mind of the audience and transitions smoothly between them
- Positions characters effectively on stage
- Incorporates creative, deliberate movements that enhance the performance
- Handles the binder and its contents (if used) skillfully and creatively

Comments:

Impact   ☐ Poor   ☐ Fair   ☐ Good   ☐ Excellent   ☐ Superior

- Presents a meaningful theme
- Provokes the audience to thought
- Establishes rapport with the audience

Comments:

Rank*

Please rank the speaker on the judge worksheet and then check the corresponding box below:

☐ 1st   ☐ 2nd   ☐ 3rd   ☐ 4th   ☐ 5th and below

*Reflects the speaker's rank prior to any applicable penalties

Digital Presentation Event Rules

Platform Speech

Digital Presentation is an original platform speech that informs or persuades and is accompanied by digital visual aids.

1. **General Speech Rules and Script Rules** must be followed in addition to these Event Rules.

2. **Speech time** is limited to a 10-minute maximum.

3. **An original work** must be presented. Original indicates that the speech is scripted word-for-word by the speaker.

4. **Characterization** may comprise up to 150 total words in the speech. Characterization refers to acting or speaking in a manner other than that of the speaker.

5. **Direct quotations** may comprise up to 350 words of the total words in the speech.

6. **Sources for supporting material** must be verbally stated in the speech, parenthetically cited following the material in the script, and listed on the Works Cited page.

   - **Supporting material** includes another person's information, details, research, theories, stories, or ideas whether directly quoted or summarized.

   - **Common knowledge** that is known to most people does not need to be cited in any way.

7. **A digital presentation** must accompany the speech:

   - **A minimum of five slides** must be used, not including the introductory and concluding slides.

   - **The presentation must begin** with an introductory slide with only a topic or title visible to the judges. The presentation must conclude with a slide that does not include text, animations, or additional images. Background templates are acceptable.

   - **Video, audio, and/or audiovisual clip(s)** may be used in the presentation and must not exceed a combined total of 20 seconds.

   - **Citations for non-original graphics or video, audio, and/or audiovisual clip(s)** must be visible on the slide.

- **Equipment requirements and limitations:**

  o **The presentation** must be downloaded onto a device (e.g., laptop, tablet, etc.) provided by the speaker and run independently of any need for WiFi.

  o **Any wireless presenter remote or external speakers**, if desired, must be provided by the speaker.

  o **A video monitor with HDMI connection, HDMI cable, and device platform,** provided by tournament administration, must be used and may not be relocated.

  o **Any necessary adapter** for HDMI connection to the student's device must be provided by the speaker.

  o **Power cords for a competitor's device** may not be plugged into outlets in the competition room.

  o **Assistance with a speaker's set up or equipment** is not permitted in the competition room before, during, or after the speech.

  o **Set up** must not exceed two minutes.

  o **Special accommodations** will not be made for a speaker's equipment failure.

8. **During the delivery of the speech:**

- **The presentation** may only be displayed on a single monitor in addition to the screen.

- **Use of presenter view** is permitted. Use of presenter notes is not permitted.

- **Visual aids** are not permitted. Visual aids are items other than the digital presentation used to enhance the speech.

- **Room lighting** may not be altered.

Platform Script Rules

Digital Presentation, Informative, Persuasive

1. **General Speech Rules** and **specific Event Rules** must be followed in addition to these Platform Script Rules.

2. **An online script form** must be completed and certified by the speaker(s) and a parent/coach for each tournament.

3. **A platform script** must be uploaded electronically during the designated timeframe for each tournament. Scripts must be submitted in .doc or .docx (preferred), .pdf, .jpg, or .png format.

4. **A digital presentation** must be uploaded in addition to the script for Digital Presentation competitors.

5. **A platform script** must be typed in black font. Single-spaced scripts are not permitted. Colored URLs are acceptable.

6. **Characterized words** must be set apart in italicized font.

7. **Sources for supporting material** must be:
   - **Underlined** where the speaker verbally mentions them
   - **Cited parenthetically** following the material
   - **Listed** on the Works Cited page

8. **Direct quotations** must be set apart in bold font and quotation marks. If direct quotations are characterized, they must be set apart in bold, italicized font and quotation marks.

9. **A Works Cited page** must be submitted if supporting material is used. Citation elements such as author, title, publisher, date, website URL, etc. should be included if available. Suggested Works Cited page formats may be found on library or university websites.

10. **NCFCA's receipt of a submitted script** does not ensure rule compliance.

Digital Presentation Ballot

Speaker:	Judge:
Topic:	Round: Room:
Speech Length: Script or Note Use: ☐ Yes ☐ No	*Please check the box next to your assessment of each category and provide feedback in the boxes below.*

Content   ☐ Poor   ☐ Fair   ☐ Good   ☐ Excellent   ☐ Superior

- Informs or persuades with originality and creativity
- Presents a clear thesis and develops it throughout the speech
- Supports assertions with credible sources including citations when necessary, sound logic, and/or relevant examples
- Enhances the speech with visually appealing and effective slides

Comments:

Organization   ☐ Poor   ☐ Fair   ☐ Good   ☐ Excellent   ☐ Superior

- Captivates the audience with an engaging introduction and a compelling conclusion
- Balances the development of each main point and integrates fluid transitions
- Demonstrates a coherent flow and uses time effectively
- Integrates information on the slides naturally into the speech

Comments:

Vocal Delivery   ☐ Poor   ☐ Fair   ☐ Good   ☐ Excellent   ☐ Superior

- Communicates sincerely and conversationally
- Demonstrates accurate pronunciation and articulation
- Varies volume, rate, and pitch

Comments:

Physical Delivery   ☐ Poor   ☐ Fair   ☐ Good   ☐ Excellent   ☐ Superior

- Appears professional, poised, and passionate
- Exhibits good posture, movement, and gestures
- Displays appropriate eye contact and facial expressions
- Manages equipment smoothly and effectively

Comments:

Impact   ☐ Poor   ☐ Fair   ☐ Good   ☐ Excellent   ☐ Superior

- Communicates the relevance of the topic
- Discusses the topic using well-reasoned analysis
- Establishes rapport with the audience

Comments:

Rank*

Please rank the speaker on the judge worksheet and then check the corresponding box below:

☐ 1st   ☐ 2nd   ☐ 3rd   ☐ 4th   ☐ 5th and below

*Reflects the speaker's rank prior to any applicable penalties

Duo Event Rules

Interpretation Speech

Duo is an interpretation speech in which two speakers explore a published literature selection and develop a unique, original performance.

1. **General Speech Rules and Script Rules** must be followed in addition to these Event Rules.

2. **Speech time** is limited to a 10-minute maximum.

3. **A single, non-original, published literature selection** must be presented as a unique and original performance.

   - **Single** indicates that only one literature selection may be used. Even from a collection, only one selection may be used (e.g. an individual book of the Bible, a single short story or poem from a collection, etc.).

   - **Non-original** indicates that the literature selection is not written by the speaker.

   - **Published** indicates a work which is available to the public. Published does not include material from blogs or social media, or works which are solely audio or video recordings, movies, TV, or radio.

   - **Literature** includes plays, prose, or poetry. Comic strips, stand-up comedy acts, and strings of jokes must not be used.

   - **Unique and original performance** indicates that cutting, blocking, characterizations, etc. should be developed primarily by the speaker.

4. **When introducing and/or concluding the literature selection:**

   - **Up to 150 total words** may be added. An introduction may follow immediately after a short teaser from the literature selection. Any conclusion must be the final words of the presentation.

   - **Clear distinction** must be made from the literature selection.

   - **The title and author** of the literature selection must be included in the introduction but are not included in the 150-word count.

   - **Sources for supporting material** must be verbally stated, parenthetically cited following the material in the script, and listed on the Works Cited page.

     - **Supporting material** includes another person's information, details, research, theories, stories, or ideas whether directly quoted or summarized.

     - **Common knowledge** that is known to most people does not need to be cited in any way.

   - **Original dialogue** must not be assigned to an author's character.

5. **When cutting the literature selection:**

- **Combining phrases** from several sentences is permitted.

- **Adding single words** from nearby sentences is permitted for transition or character identification, but single words from separate sentences may not be strung together to create new sentences.

- **Repeating an author's words** is permitted even when an author does not do so.

- **Changing an author's words** is only permitted for pronoun substitution, verb tense, and subject-verb agreement.

- **Giving one character's lines** to another existing character is permitted, but new characters may not be created.

6. **When delivering the speech:**

- **Limited singing** is permitted only if motivated by the literature selection and may comprise up to 60 total words in the entire piece. Published tunes from another source are permitted in the literature section only if the song lyrics and/or published tune are specifically included in the literature selection.

- **Limited dancing** is permitted only if motivated by the literature selection.

- **Sound effects** are permitted.

- **Visual aids** are not permitted. Visual aids are items used to enhance the speech.

- **Intentional touching** and **eye contact** between the two speakers are not permitted.

- **Participation** should be balanced between the two speakers.

Interpretation Script Rules

Biblical Thematic, Duo, Humorous, Open

1. **General Speech Rules** and **specific Event Rules** must be followed in addition to these Interpretation Script Rules.

2. **An online script form** must be completed and certified by the speaker(s) and a parent/coach for each tournament.

3. **An interpretation script** must be uploaded electronically during the designated timeframe for each tournament. Scripts must be submitted in .doc or .docx (preferred), .pdf, .jpg, or .png format.

4. **An interpretation script** must include both a Format 1 (typed script) and a Format 2 (highlighted pages from the original source); however, self-authored scripts only require a Format 1.

5. **NCFCA's receipt of a submitted script** does not ensure rule compliance.

Format 1: Typed Script

6. **Format 1** must be typed in black font. Single-spaced scripts are not permitted. Colored URLs are acceptable.

7. **Words of singing** must be set apart in italicized font.

8. **Added words in an introduction, conclusion, or narrative section(s)** must be set apart in bold font.

9. **The title and author of the selection(s)** should not be included in the added word count.

10. **Sources for supporting material** must be:
    - **Underlined** where the speaker verbally mentions them
    - **Cited parenthetically** following the material
    - **Listed** on the Works Cited page

11. **Directly quoted supporting material** in an introduction, conclusion, and/or narrative section(s) must be included in the added word count and set apart in both bold font and quotation marks.

12. **Common knowledge** that is known to most people does not need to be cited in any way.

13. **A script-style format** (i.e., added stage directions, character names to identify lines, etc.) may not be used.

14. **A Works Cited page** must be submitted if supporting material is used. Citation elements such as author, title, publisher, date, website URL, etc. should be included if available. Suggested Works Cited page formats may be found on library or university websites.

Format 2: Original Source Material

15. **Pages** of the original source material must be submitted if they contain lines that are used in the typed script.

    Many copyrighted works may be used under the "fair use" doctrine for the purposes of interpretive competition events in an educational setting. Speakers are responsible for satisfying any requirements set forth by the publisher. For more information on copyright law, visit www.copyright.gov.

16. **Words** included in the script must be highlighted on the submitted pages.

17. **All words** must be legible, and no words may be crossed out.

NCFCA

Duo Ballot

Speaker:	Judge:
Topic:	Round: Room:
Speech Length: Script or Note Use: ☐ Yes ☐ No	*Please check the box next to your assessment of each category and provide feedback in the boxes below.*

Content   ☐ Poor   ☐ Fair   ☐ Good   ☐ Excellent   ☐ Superior

- Presents a selection with literary merit that demonstrates excellence in substance and style
- Develops depth with rich characters and vivid scenes, balancing participation between speakers
- Cites the title and author of the literature selection and other sources if used

Comments:

Organization   ☐ Poor   ☐ Fair   ☐ Good   ☐ Excellent   ☐ Superior

- Provides the necessary context to understand the actions and events
- Presents a coherent plot with a clear beginning, climax, and resolution
- Uses time effectively

Comments:

Characterization   ☐ Poor   ☐ Fair   ☐ Good   ☐ Excellent   ☐ Superior

- Consistently portrays distinct, realistic, and relatable characters and transitions smoothly between them
- Expresses vocal accent, volume, rate, and pitch for each character
- Exhibits the posture, gestures, and facial expressions of each character

Comments:

Blocking   ☐ Poor   ☐ Fair   ☐ Good   ☐ Excellent   ☐ Superior

- Creates distinct, realistic scenes in the mind of the audience and transitions smoothly between them
- Positions characters effectively on stage
- Incorporates and coordinates creative, deliberate movements that enhance the performance

Comments:

Impact   ☐ Poor   ☐ Fair   ☐ Good   ☐ Excellent   ☐ Superior

- Presents a meaningful theme
- Provokes the audience to thought
- Establishes rapport with the audience

Comments:

Rank*

Please rank the speaker on the judge worksheet and then check the corresponding box below:

☐ 1st   ☐ 2nd   ☐ 3rd   ☐ 4th   ☐ 5th and below

*Reflects the speaker's rank prior to any applicable penalties

Extemporaneous Event Rules

Limited Preparation Speech

Extemporaneous is a limited preparation speech in which the speaker is assigned a current event topic and given twenty minutes to analyze news and other sources while preparing a seven-minute, evidence-based speech.

1. **General Speech Rules** must be followed in addition to these Event Rules.

2. **Topics** will refer to newsworthy events from the past 90 days, including questions about domestic politics and policy, international politics and policy, business, culture, and entertainment.

3. **Research** is permitted prior to the competition.
   - **Published articles or other materials** (e.g. books, magazines, newspapers) may be downloaded onto a computer or printed and stored in a personal or club file box(es).
   - **Previously prepared notes or analysis**, including debate briefs or speech outlines, may not be accessed from a computer or a personal or club box(es).
   - **Shared club box(es)** must have a label affixed to the outside that includes the club name and the individual names of all speakers who have permission to use the box at that tournament.

4. **Preparation time** is limited to a twenty-minute maximum. **Speech time** is limited to a seven-minute maximum. **Cross-examination** time during elimination rounds is limited to a two-minute maximum.

5. **The speaker** should report to the Extemporaneous Preparation Room at their assigned draw time. The speaker will remain until the assigned speech time.

6. **The speech** must be prepared in the Extemporaneous Preparation Room and delivered in the competition room.

7. **During preparation time:**
   - **The speaker** must prepare to speak on one of the two topics provided on their assigned topic card.
   - **The chosen topic** may be underlined, but no notes may be written on the topic card.

- **Previously downloaded, published articles or other material** (e.g. books, magazines, newspapers) may be accessed from a tablet or a laptop computer.

- **Previously printed, published articles or other material** (e.g. books, magazines, newspapers) may be accessed from a personal or club file box(es).

- **Notes** may be taken on paper, although this paper may not be used during the speech. Notes may not be taken on the computer.

- A **single notecard** must be prepared for use during the speech to ensure accurate information and citations. **3" x 5" notecards** will be available.

- **No help or advice about the topic** may be requested before the speech.

- **Unused preparation time** may not be added to the speech time.

8. **A laptop or tablet computer** may be used during preparation time, but computers may not be shared between competitors in the Extemp Prep Room.

- **Special accommodations** will not be made for equipment failure.

- **Computer power cords** may not be plugged into outlets in the Extemp Prep Room.

- **Connection to the internet or other shared devices** is not permitted, and computers with built-in WiFi or cellular capability must have these capabilities disabled prior to the beginning of preparation time.

- **Computers must be muted, and earbuds** may not be used.

9. **During the delivery of the speech:**

- **The speaker** must speak on one of the two topics provided on their assigned topic card.

- **The prepared 3" x 5" notecard** must be held; **the topic card** may be held.

- **The chosen topic** must be stated early in the speech.

- **Verifiable support** for analysis must be provided by the speaker.

- **Sources for supporting material** used within the speech must be verbally mentioned in the speech.

10. **After the speech:**

- **In preliminary rounds**, the speaker must turn in the topic card and the prepared notecard to the Head Judge before leaving the room.

- **In elimination rounds**, continue with Cross-Examination.

Cross-Examination
In Elimination Rounds

To invite dialogue and deepen understanding of the presented position, the judge(s) will ask a thought-provoking question(s) at the end of a speaker's presentation in elimination rounds.

11. **During the two-minute maximum cross-examination,** the judge(s) will ask a thought-provoking question(s) that invites dialogue and deepens understanding of the presented position.

12. **The speaker** must turn in the topic card and the prepared notecard to the Head Judge before leaving the room.

Extemporaneous Ballot

NCFCA

Speaker:		Judge:	
Topic:		Round:	Room:
Speech Length:		*Please check the box next to your assessment of each category and provide feedback in the boxes below.*	

Content		☐ Poor	☐ Fair	☐ Good	☐ Excellent	☐ Superior
• States the chosen topic and adheres to it • Relates a clear thesis and presents an evidence-based response to the topic • Supports assertions with credible sources including citations when necessary, sound logic, and/or relevant examples	Comments:					

Organization		☐ Poor	☐ Fair	☐ Good	☐ Excellent	☐ Superior
• Captivates the audience with an engaging introduction and a compelling conclusion • Balances the development of each main point and integrates fluid transitions • Demonstrates a coherent flow and uses time effectively	Comments:					

Vocal Delivery		☐ Poor	☐ Fair	☐ Good	☐ Excellent	☐ Superior
• Communicates sincerely and conversationally • Demonstrates accurate pronunciation and articulation • Varies volume, rate, and pitch	Comments:					

Physical Delivery		☐ Poor	☐ Fair	☐ Good	☐ Excellent	☐ Superior
• Appears professional, poised, and passionate • Exhibits good posture, movement, and gestures • Displays appropriate eye contact and facial expressions • Utilizes notecard effectively	Comments:					

Impact		☐ Poor	☐ Fair	☐ Good	☐ Excellent	☐ Superior
• Communicates the relevance of the topic • Discusses the topic with supporting material and well-reasoned analysis • Establishes rapport with the audience, expressing assertions in a winsome manner	Comments:					

Cross-Examination: Elimination Rounds Only		☐ Poor	☐ Fair	☐ Good	☐ Excellent	☐ Superior
• Responds to questions knowledgeably and deepens the understanding of the presented position • Demonstrates professionalism when responding to the judge(s)	Comments:					

Rank*

Please rank the speaker on the judge worksheet and then check the corresponding box below:

☐ 1st   ☐ 2nd   ☐ 3rd   ☐ 4th   ☐ 5th and below

*Reflects the speaker's rank prior to any applicable penalties

Humorous Event Rules

Interpretation Speech

Humorous is an interpretation speech in which the speaker explores a published literature selection and develops a unique, original, and humorous performance.

1. **General Speech Rules and Script Rules** must be followed in addition to these Event Rules.

2. **Speech time** is limited to a 10-minute maximum.

3. **A single, non-original, published literature selection** must be presented as a unique and original performance.

   - **Single** indicates that only one literature selection may be used. Even from a collection, only one selection may be used (e.g. an individual book of the Bible, a single short story or poem from a collection, etc.).

   - **Non-original** indicates that the literature selection is not written by the speaker.

   - **Published** indicates a work of an author which is available to the public. Published does not include material from blogs or social media, or works which are solely audio or video recordings, movies, TV, or radio.

   - **Literature** includes plays, prose, or poetry. Comic strips, stand-up comedy acts, and strings of jokes must not be used.

   - **Unique and original performance** indicates that cutting, blocking, characterizations, etc. should be developed primarily by the speaker.

   - **Humor** must be central to the performance and must be in alignment with the NCFCA mission and the Competition Material Policy.

   - **Vulgarity** is never acceptable. Vulgarity includes explicit or implied language or gestures which are inappropriate, obscene, or profane.

4. **When introducing and/or concluding the literature selection:**

   - **Up to 150 total words** may be added. An introduction may follow immediately after a short teaser from the literature selection. Any conclusion must be the final words of the presentation.

   - **Clear distinction** must be made from the literature selection.

   - **The title and author** of the literature selection must be included in the introduction but are not included in the 150-word count.

   - **Sources for supporting material** must be verbally stated, parenthetically cited following the material in the script, and listed on the Works Cited page.

     ○ **Supporting material** includes another person's information, details, research, theories, stories, or ideas whether directly quoted or summarized.

- ○ **Common knowledge** that is known to most people does not need to be cited in any way.

- ● **Original dialogue** must not be assigned to an author's character.

5. **When cutting the literature selection:**
   - ● **Combining phrases** from several sentences is permitted.

   - ● **Adding single words** from nearby sentences is permitted for transition or character identification, but single words from separate sentences may not be strung together to create new sentences.

   - ● **Repeating an author's words** is permitted even when an author does not do so.

   - ● **Changing an author's words** is only permitted for pronoun substitution, verb tense, and subject-verb agreement.

   - ● **Giving one character's lines** to another existing character is permitted, but new characters may not be created.

6. **When delivering the speech:**
   - ● **Limited singing** is permitted only if motivated by the literature selection and may comprise up to 60 total words in the entire piece. Published tunes from another source are permitted in the literature section only if the song lyrics and/or published tune are specifically included in the literature selection.

   - ● **Limited dancing** is permitted only if motivated by the literature selection.

   - ● **Sound effects** are permitted.

   - ● **Visual aids** are not permitted. Visual aids are items used to enhance the speech.

Interpretation Script Rules

Biblical Thematic, Duo, Humorous, Open

1. **General Speech Rules** and **specific Event Rules** must be followed in addition to these Interpretation Script Rules.

2. **An online script form** must be completed and certified by the speaker(s) and a parent/coach for each tournament.

3. **An interpretation script** must be uploaded electronically during the designated timeframe for each tournament. Scripts must be submitted in .doc or .docx (preferred), .pdf, .jpg, or .png format.

4. **An interpretation script** must include both a Format 1 (typed script) and a Format 2 (highlighted pages from the original source); however, self-authored scripts only require a Format 1.

5. **NCFCA's receipt of a submitted script** does not ensure rule compliance.

Format 1: Typed Script

6. **Format 1** must be typed in black font. Single-spaced scripts are not permitted. Colored URLs are acceptable.

7. **Words of singing** must be set apart in italicized font.

8. **Added words in an introduction, conclusion, or narrative section(s)** must be set apart in bold font.

9. **The title and author of the selection(s)** should not be included in the added word count.

10. **Sources for supporting material** must be:

    - **Underlined** where the speaker verbally mentions them
    - **Cited parenthetically** following the material
    - **Listed** on the Works Cited page

11. **Directly quoted supporting material** in an introduction, conclusion, and/or narrative section(s) must be included in the added word count and set apart in both bold font and quotation marks.

12. **Common knowledge** that is known to most people does not need to be cited in any way.

13. **A script-style format** (i.e., added stage directions, character names to identify lines, etc.) may not be used.

14. **A Works Cited page** must be submitted if supporting material is used. Citation elements such as author, title, publisher, date, website URL, etc. should be included if available. Suggested Works Cited page formats may be found on library or university websites.

Format 2: Original Source Material

15. **Pages** of the original source material must be submitted if they contain lines that are used in the typed script.

    Many copyrighted works may be used under the "fair use" doctrine for the purposes of interpretive competition events in an educational setting. Speakers are responsible for satisfying any requirements set forth by the publisher. For more information on copyright law, visit www.copyright.gov.

16. **Words** included in the script must be highlighted on the submitted pages.

17. **All words** must be legible, and no words may be crossed out.

Humorous Ballot

NCFCA

Speaker:	Judge:
Topic:	Round: Room:
Speech Length: Script or Note Use: ☐ Yes ☐ No	*Please check the box next to your assessment of each category and provide feedback in the boxes below.*

Content ☐ Poor ☐ Fair ☐ Good ☐ Excellent ☐ Superior

- Presents a selection with literary merit that demonstrates tasteful humor in both substance and style
- Develops depth with rich characters and vivid scenes
- Cites the title and author of the literature selection and other sources if used

Comments:

Organization ☐ Poor ☐ Fair ☐ Good ☐ Excellent ☐ Superior

- Provides the necessary context to understand the actions and events
- Presents a coherent plot with a clear beginning, climax, and resolution
- Uses time effectively

Comments:

Characterization ☐ Poor ☐ Fair ☐ Good ☐ Excellent ☐ Superior

- Consistently portrays distinct, realistic, and relatable characters and transitions smoothly between them
- Expresses vocal accent, volume, rate, and pitch for each character
- Exhibits the posture, gestures, and facial expressions of each character

Comments:

Blocking ☐ Poor ☐ Fair ☐ Good ☐ Excellent ☐ Superior

- Creates distinct, realistic scenes in the mind of the audience and transitions smoothly between them
- Positions characters effectively on stage
- Incorporates creative, deliberate movements that enhance the performance

Comments:

Impact ☐ Poor ☐ Fair ☐ Good ☐ Excellent ☐ Superior

- Presents a meaningful theme
- Provokes the audience to thought
- Establishes rapport with the audience

Comments:

Rank*

Please rank the speaker on the judge worksheet and then check the corresponding box below:

☐ 1st   ☐ 2nd   ☐ 3rd   ☐ 4th   ☐ 5th and below

*Reflects the speaker's rank prior to any applicable penalties

Impromptu Event Rules
Limited Preparation Speech

Impromptu is a limited preparation speech in which the speaker draws a topic and is given two minutes to prepare a unique and meaningful five-minute speech.

1. **General Speech Rules** must be followed in addition to these Event Rules.

2. **Topics** will be taken from categories including abstract words, quotations, or table topics.

3. **Preparation time** is limited to a two-minute maximum. **Speech time** is limited to a five-minute maximum.

4. **A unique speech** must be prepared and delivered in the competition room.

5. **Written or printed materials** must not be brought into the competition room.

6. **During preparation time:**
   - **The speaker** must prepare to speak on one of the two topics provided on the topic card.
   - **The chosen topic** may be underlined, but no notes may be written on the topic card.
   - **Notes** may be written on the paper provided in the competition room, but the speaker may not use the paper during the speech.
   - **Phones and electronic devices** may not be used to access the internet or view materials.
   - **Unused preparation time** may not be added to the speech time.

7. **During the delivery of the speech:**
   - **The speaker** must speak on one of the two topics provided on the topic card.
   - **The topic card** may be held during the speech. No other written or printed materials may be held.
   - **The chosen topic** must be stated early in the speech.

Impromptu Ballot

NCFCA

Speaker:
Topic:
Speech Length:

Judge:
Round: Room:
Please check the box next to your assessment of each category and provide feedback in the boxes below.

Content	☐ **Poor**	☐ **Fair**	☐ **Good**	☐ **Excellent**	☐ **Superior**

- States the chosen topic and adheres to it
- Relates a clear thesis and presents a unique and meaningful speech
- Supports assertions with credible sources including citations when necessary, sound logic, and/or relevant examples

Comments:

Organization	☐ **Poor**	☐ **Fair**	☐ **Good**	☐ **Excellent**	☐ **Superior**

- Captivates the audience with an engaging introduction and a compelling conclusion
- Balances the development of each main point and integrates fluid transitions
- Demonstrates a coherent flow and uses time effectively

Comments:

Vocal Delivery	☐ **Poor**	☐ **Fair**	☐ **Good**	☐ **Excellent**	☐ **Superior**

- Communicates sincerely and conversationally
- Demonstrates accurate pronunciation and articulation
- Varies volume, rate, and pitch

Comments:

Physical Delivery	☐ **Poor**	☐ **Fair**	☐ **Good**	☐ **Excellent**	☐ **Superior**

- Appears professional, poised, and passionate
- Exhibits good posture, movement, and gestures
- Displays appropriate eye contact and facial expressions

Comments:

Impact	☐ **Poor**	☐ **Fair**	☐ **Good**	☐ **Excellent**	☐ **Superior**

- Communicates the relevance of the topic
- Discusses the topic with well-reasoned analysis
- Establishes rapport with the audience

Comments:

Rank*

Please rank the speaker on the judge worksheet and then check the corresponding box below:

☐ **1ˢᵗ**　　　☐ **2ⁿᵈ**　　　☐ **3ʳᵈ**　　　☐ **4ᵗʰ**　　　☐ **5ᵗʰ and below**

*Reflects the speaker's rank prior to any applicable penalties

Informative

Platform Speech

Informative is an original platform speech that explains a significant topic.

1. **General Speech Rules** and **Script Rules** must be followed in addition to these Event Rules.

2. **Speech time** is limited to a 10-minute maximum.

3. **An original work** must be presented. Original indicates that the speech is scripted word-for-word by the speaker.

4. **Characterization** may comprise up to 150 total words in the speech. Characterization refers to acting or speaking in a manner other than that of the speaker.

5. **Direct quotations** may comprise up to 350 words of the total words in the speech.

6. **Sources for supporting material** must be verbally stated in the speech, parenthetically cited following the material in the script, and listed on the Works Cited page.

   - **Supporting material** includes another person's information, details, research, theories, stories, or ideas whether directly quoted or summarized.

   - **Common knowledge** that is known to most people does not need to be cited in any way.

7. **Visual aids** may not be used. Visual aids are items used to enhance the speech.

Platform Script Rules

Digital Presentation, Informative, Persuasive

1. **General Speech Rules** and **specific Event Rules** must be followed in addition to these Platform Script Rules.

2. **An online script form** must be completed and certified by the speaker(s) and a parent/coach for each tournament.

3. **A platform script** must be uploaded electronically during the designated timeframe for each tournament. Scripts must be submitted in .doc or .docx (preferred), .pdf, .jpg, or .png format.

4. **A digital presentation** must be uploaded in addition to the script for Digital Presentation competitors.

5. **A platform script** must be typed in black font. Single-spaced scripts are not permitted. Colored URLs are acceptable.

6. **Characterized words** must be set apart in italicized font.

7. **Sources for supporting material** must be:
   - **Underlined** where the speaker verbally mentions them
   - **Cited parenthetically** following the material
   - **Listed** on the Works Cited page

8. **Direct quotations** must be set apart in bold font and quotation marks. If direct quotations are characterized, they must be set apart in bold, italicized font and quotation marks.

9. **A Works Cited page** must be submitted if supporting material is used. Citation elements such as author, title, publisher, date, website URL, etc. should be included if available. Suggested Works Cited page formats may be found on library or university websites.

10. **NCFCA's receipt of a submitted script** does not ensure rule compliance.

Informative Ballot

NCFCA

Speaker:		Judge:	
Topic:		Round:	Room:
Speech Length:	Script or Note Use: ☐ Yes ☐ No	*Please check the box next to your assessment of each category and provide feedback in the boxes below.*	

Content	☐ Poor	☐ Fair	☐ Good	☐ Excellent	☐ Superior

- Explains a significant topic with originality and creativity
- Presents a clear thesis and develops it throughout the speech
- Supports assertions with credible sources including citations when necessary, sound logic, and/or relevant examples

Comments:

Organization	☐ Poor	☐ Fair	☐ Good	☐ Excellent	☐ Superior

- Captivates the audience with an engaging introduction and a compelling conclusion
- Balances the development of each main point and integrates fluid transitions
- Demonstrates a coherent flow and uses time effectively

Comments:

Vocal Delivery	☐ Poor	☐ Fair	☐ Good	☐ Excellent	☐ Superior

- Communicates sincerely and conversationally
- Demonstrates accurate pronunciation and articulation
- Varies volume, rate, and pitch

Comments:

Physical Delivery	☐ Poor	☐ Fair	☐ Good	☐ Excellent	☐ Superior

- Appears professional, poised, and passionate
- Exhibits good posture, movement, and gestures
- Displays appropriate eye contact and facial expressions

Comments:

Impact	☐ Poor	☐ Fair	☐ Good	☐ Excellent	☐ Superior

- Communicates the relevance of the topic
- Discusses the topic using well-reasoned analysis
- Establishes rapport with the audience

Comments:

Rank*

Please rank the speaker on the judge worksheet and then check the corresponding box below:

☐ 1st ☐ 2nd ☐ 3rd ☐ 4th ☐ 5th and below

*Reflects the speaker's rank prior to any applicable penalties

Open Event Rules

Interpretation Speech

Open is an interpretation speech in which the speaker explores a published or self-authored literature selection and develops a unique, original performance.

1. **General Speech Rules and Script Rules** must be followed in addition to these Event Rules.

2. **Speech time** is limited to a 10-minute maximum.

3. **A single published or self-authored literature selection** must be presented as a unique and original performance.

   - **Single** indicates that only one literature selection may be used. Even from a collection, only one selection may be used (e.g. an individual book of the Bible, a single short story or poem from a collection, etc.).

   - **Published** indicates a work of an author which is available to the public. Published does not include material from blogs or social media, or works which are solely audio or video recordings, movies, TV, or radio.

   - **Self-authored** indicates an original work of the speaker (i.e., not an adaptation of an existing piece from another author).

   - **Literature** includes plays, prose, or poetry. Comic strips, stand-up comedy acts, and strings of jokes must not be used.

   - **Unique and original performance** indicates that cutting, blocking, characterizations, etc. should be developed primarily by the speaker.

4. **When introducing and/or concluding the literature selection:**

   - **Up to 150 total words** may be added. An introduction may follow immediately after a short teaser from the literature selection. Any conclusion must be the final words of the presentation.

   - **Clear distinction** must be made from the literature selection.

   - **The title and author** of the literature selection must be included in the introduction but are not included in the 150-word count.

   - **Sources for supporting material** must be verbally stated, parenthetically cited following the material in the script, and listed on the Works Cited page.

     - **Supporting material** includes another person's information, details, research, theories, stories, or ideas whether directly quoted or summarized.

     - **Common knowledge** that is known to most people does not need to be cited in any way.

   - **Original dialogue** must not be assigned to an author's character.

5. **When cutting a published literature selection:**

- **Combining phrases** from several sentences is permitted.

- **Adding single words** from nearby sentences is permitted for transition or character identification, but single words from separate sentences may not be strung together to create new sentences.

- **Repeating an author's words** is permitted even when an author does not do so.

- **Changing an author's words** is only permitted for pronoun substitution, verb tense, and subject-verb agreement.

- **Giving one character's lines** to another existing character is permitted, but new characters may not be created.

6. **When writing a self-authored literature selection:**

- **Sources for supporting material** do not necessarily need to be verbally stated, but must be parenthetically cited with the material in the script and listed on the Works Cited page.

  o **Supporting material** includes another person's information, details, research, theories, stories, or ideas whether directly quoted or summarized.

  o **Common knowledge** that is known to most people does not need to be cited in any way.

7. **When delivering the speech:**

- **Limited singing** is permitted only if motivated by the literature selection and may comprise up to 60 total words in the entire piece. Published tunes from another source are permitted in the literature section only if the song lyrics and/or published tune are specifically included in the literature selection.

- **Limited dancing** is permitted only if motivated by the literature selection.

- **Sound effects** are permitted.

- **Visual aids** are not permitted. Visual aids are items used to enhance the speech.

Interpretation Script Rules

Biblical Thematic, Duo, Humorous, Open

1. **General Speech Rules** and **specific Event Rules** must be followed in addition to these Interpretation Script Rules.

2. **An online script form** must be completed and certified by the speaker(s) and a parent/coach for each tournament.

3. **An interpretation script** must be uploaded electronically during the designated timeframe for each tournament. Scripts must be submitted in .doc or .docx (preferred), .pdf, .jpg, or .png format.

4. **An interpretation script** must include both a Format 1 (typed script) and a Format 2 (highlighted pages from the original source); however, self-authored scripts only require a Format 1.

5. **NCFCA's receipt of a submitted script** does not ensure rule compliance.

Format 1: Typed Script

6. **Format 1** must be typed in black font. Single-spaced scripts are not permitted. Colored URLs are acceptable.

7. **Words of singing** must be set apart in italicized font.

8. **Added words in an introduction, conclusion, or narrative section(s)** must be set apart in bold font.

9. **The title and author of the selection(s)** should not be included in the added word count.

10. **Sources for supporting material** must be:

    - **Underlined** where the speaker verbally mentions them
    - **Cited parenthetically** following the material
    - **Listed** on the Works Cited page

11. **Directly quoted supporting material** in an introduction, conclusion, and/or narrative section(s) must be included in the added word count and set apart in both bold font and quotation marks.

12. **Common knowledge** that is known to most people does not need to be cited in any way.

13. **A script-style format** (i.e., added stage directions, character names to identify lines, etc.) may not be used.

14. **A Works Cited page** must be submitted if supporting material is used. Citation elements such as author, title, publisher, date, website URL, etc. should be included if available. Suggested Works Cited page formats may be found on library or university websites.

Format 2: Original Source Material

15. **Pages** of the original source material must be submitted if they contain lines that are used in the typed script.

    Many copyrighted works may be used under the "fair use" doctrine for the purposes of interpretive competition events in an educational setting. Speakers are responsible for satisfying any requirements set forth by the publisher. For more information on copyright law, visit www.copyright.gov.

16. **Words** included in the script must be highlighted on the submitted pages.

17. **All words** must be legible, and no words may be crossed out.

Open Ballot

NCFCA

Speaker:	Judge:
Topic:	Round: Room:
Speech Length: Script or Note Use: ☐ Yes ☐ No	*Please check the box next to your assessment of each category and provide feedback in the boxes below.*

Content	☐ Poor ☐ Fair ☐ Good ☐ Excellent ☐ Superior
• Presents a selection with literary merit that demonstrates excellence in substance and style • Develops depth with rich characters and vivid scenes • Cites the title and author of the literature selection and other sources if used	Comments:

Organization	☐ Poor ☐ Fair ☐ Good ☐ Excellent ☐ Superior
• Provides the necessary context to understand the actions and events • Presents a coherent plot with a clear beginning, climax, and resolution • Uses time effectively	Comments:

Characterization	☐ Poor ☐ Fair ☐ Good ☐ Excellent ☐ Superior
• Consistently portrays distinct, realistic, and relatable characters and transitions smoothly between them • Expresses vocal accent, volume, rate, and pitch for each character • Exhibits the posture, gestures, and facial expressions of each character	Comments:

Blocking	☐ Poor ☐ Fair ☐ Good ☐ Excellent ☐ Superior
• Creates distinct, realistic scenes in the mind of the audience and transitions smoothly between them • Positions characters effectively on stage • Incorporates creative, deliberate movements that enhance the performance	Comments:

Impact	☐ Poor ☐ Fair ☐ Good ☐ Excellent ☐ Superior
• Presents a meaningful theme • Provokes the audience to thought • Establishes rapport with the audience	Comments:

Rank*

Please rank the speaker on the judge worksheet and then check the corresponding box below:

☐ 1st   ☐ 2nd   ☐ 3rd   ☐ 4th   ☐ 5th **and below**

*Reflects the speaker's rank prior to any applicable penalties

Persuasive

Platform Speech

Persuasive is an original platform speech that influences the audience to consider a particular point of view or course of action.

1. **General Speech Rules** and **Script Rules** must be followed in addition to these Event Rules.

2. **Speech time** is limited to a 10-minute maximum.

3. **An original work** must be presented. Original indicates that the speech is scripted word-for-word by the speaker.

4. **Characterization** may comprise up to 150 total words in the speech. Characterization refers to acting or speaking in a manner other than that of the speaker.

5. **Direct quotations** may comprise up to 350 words of the total words in the speech.

6. **Sources for supporting material** must be verbally stated in the speech, parenthetically cited following the material in the script, and listed on the Works Cited page.

   - **Supporting material** includes another person's information, details, research, theories, stories, or ideas whether directly quoted or summarized.

   - **Common knowledge** that is known to most people does not need to be cited in any way.

7. **Visual aids** may not be used. Visual aids are items used to enhance the speech.

Platform Script Rules

Digital Presentation, Informative, Persuasive

1. **General Speech Rules** and **specific Event Rules** must be followed in addition to these Platform Script Rules.

2. **An online script form** must be completed and certified by the speaker(s) and a parent/coach for each tournament.

3. **A platform script** must be uploaded electronically during the designated timeframe for each tournament. Scripts must be submitted in .doc or .docx (preferred), .pdf, .jpg, or .png format.

4. **A digital presentation** must be uploaded in addition to the script for Digital Presentation competitors.

5. **A platform script** must be typed in black font. Single-spaced scripts are not permitted. Colored URLs are acceptable.

6. **Characterized words** must be set apart in italicized font.

7. **Sources for supporting material** must be:
   - **Underlined** where the speaker verbally mentions them
   - **Cited parenthetically** following the material
   - **Listed** on the Works Cited page

8. **Direct quotations** must be set apart in bold font and quotation marks. If direct quotations are characterized, they must be set apart in bold, italicized font and quotation marks.

9. **A Works Cited page** must be submitted if supporting material is used. Citation elements such as author, title, publisher, date, website URL, etc. should be included if available. Suggested Works Cited page formats may be found on library or university websites.

10. **NCFCA's receipt of a submitted script** does not ensure rule compliance.

Persuasive Ballot

NCFCA

Speaker:		Judge:	
Topic:		Round:	Room:
Speech Length:	Script or Note Use: ☐ Yes ☐ No	*Please check the box next to your assessment of each category and provide feedback in the boxes below.*	

Content   ☐ **Poor**   ☐ **Fair**   ☐ **Good**   ☐ **Excellent**   ☐ **Superior**

- Influences the audience to consider a particular point of view or course of action
- Presents a compelling thesis and develops it creatively throughout the speech
- Supports assertions with credible sources including citations when necessary, sound logic, and/or relevant examples

Comments:

Organization   ☐ **Poor**   ☐ **Fair**   ☐ **Good**   ☐ **Excellent**   ☐ **Superior**

- Captivates the audience with an engaging introduction and a compelling conclusion
- Balances the development of each main point and integrates fluid transitions
- Demonstrates a coherent flow and uses time effectively

Comments:

Vocal Delivery   ☐ **Poor**   ☐ **Fair**   ☐ **Good**   ☐ **Excellent**   ☐ **Superior**

- Communicates sincerely and conversationally
- Demonstrates accurate pronunciation and articulation
- Varies volume, rate, and pitch

Comments:

Physical Delivery   ☐ **Poor**   ☐ **Fair**   ☐ **Good**   ☐ **Excellent**   ☐ **Superior**

- Appears professional, poised, and passionate
- Exhibits good posture, movement, and gestures
- Displays appropriate eye contact and facial expressions

Comments:

Impact   ☐ **Poor**   ☐ **Fair**   ☐ **Good**   ☐ **Excellent**   ☐ **Superior**

- Communicates the relevance of the topic
- Discusses the topic using well-reasoned analysis
- Establishes rapport with the audience

Comments:

Rank*

Please rank the speaker on the judge worksheet and then check the corresponding box below:

☐ **1st**   ☐ **2nd**   ☐ **3rd**   ☐ **4th**   ☐ **5th and below**

*Reflects the speaker's rank prior to any applicable penalties

APPENDIX C: MOOT COURT DOCUMENTS

All Moot Court Documents can be found in the NCFCA Resource Library on the NCFCA website.

MOOT COURT

Moot Court Clerk Instructions and Time Sheet

Moot Court Rules

Moot Court Ballot Scoring Guide

Moot Court Ballot

Moot Court
Clerk Instructions

- ☐ Please arrive at the room fifteen minutes before the round.
- ☐ Place the timepieces and timer cards on the front table where you will sit next to the Justice(s).
- ☐ Ask Petitioners to record their names on the time allocation sheet.
- ☐ Ask Petitioners, "How much time would you like to reserve for rebuttal?" (1, 2, 3, or 4 minutes)

Minutes : Seconds

Total petitioner speaking time   20 : 00

Subtract rebuttal time (1,2,3 or 4 minutes)   - _____ : 00

- ☐ Calculate remaining petitioner time   _____ : _____
- ☐ Divide the remaining petitioner time evenly between the two speakers:

  Petitioner 1   _____ : _____

  Petitioner 2   _____ : _____

- ☐ Add times to Time Allocation Sheet.
- ☐ Ask the Petitioners to verify speech times and sign the Time Allocation Sheet.
- ☐ Ask the Respondents to record their names on the Time Allocation Sheet.
- ☐ Stand outside the door and wait for the Justices to arrive.
- ☐ Greet the Justices and say, "My name is _____ and I will be serving as your clerk. Who will be serving as the Chief Justice in this round?" (Enter name below.)
- ☐ Verify that the Petitioners, the Respondents, and the Justices are ready.
- ☐ Enter the room. As the Justices enter, announce: *(oyez is pronounced "oh-yay")* **Oyez, oyez, oyez. The Supreme Court of the United States is now in session, the Honorable Chief Justice _____ presiding. All those having cause to be before this honorable Court draw nigh and pay heed. God save the United States, and God save this honorable Court.**
- ☐ Follow the Justices to the front table and take your seat.
- ☐ Time speeches and record remaining times on the Time Allocation Worksheet.
- ☐ When the rebuttal is finished, stand and announce: **The Honorable Court is now adjourned. Counsel and spectators will please wait for the Justice(s) to exit the room.**

[Escort the Justices to the hallway.]

Moot Court
Time Allocation Sheet

Date: _____   Room: _____   Round: _____

Clerk: _____

Petitioner: _____

Respondent: _____

Name: Minutes : Seconds

- ☐ Petitioner 1:   _____   ___ : ___   Knock after 1 minute.
- ☐ Petitioner 2:   _____   ___ : ___   Knock after 1 minute.
- ☐ Respondent 1:   _____   10 : 00   Knock after 1 minute.
- ☐ Respondent 2:   _____   10 : 00   Knock after 1 minute.
- ☐ Petitioner (Rebuttal):   _____   ___ : 00   Do not knock.
- ☐ Petitioner Signatures: _____

For the Issue Speeches:

Enter the time on the timepiece. Push start when the speaker starts speaking.

After 1 minute, KNOCK once on the table, indicating that the Justices can ask questions.

When the timepiece shows:

   5:00   Hold up the 5-minute card.

   3:00   Hold up the 3-minute card.

   1:00   Hold up the 1-minute card.

   0:00   Stop/Reset the timepiece. Hold up the "Stop" card.

For the Rebuttal Speech:

Enter the time on the timepiece. Push start when the speaker starts speaking.

Do not knock during the rebuttal speech.

When the timepiece shows:

   3:00   Hold up the 3-minute card.

   1:00   Hold up the 1-minute card.

   0:00   Stop/Reset the timepiece. Hold up the "Stop" card.

Moot Court Rules

1. **Delivery.** Delivery should be formal, exhibiting the utmost professionalism and respect toward the justice(s) presiding in the round.

2. **Content.**
   - **The script** for the round should be used to open each session of the Court. Speakers must begin each oral argument and specific responses with the appropriate verbiage from the script.
   - **Each speaker** will represent only one of the two legal issues per round with the exception of the speaker giving the rebuttal who will respond to both issues.
   - **The content presented in the round** is restricted to a "closed universe" that is limited to material contained or referenced within the 2020 Moot Court packet and the United States Constitution.

3. **Timekeeping.** Tournament staff will provide a courtroom clerk with a Time Allocation Sheet, time cards, and a digital timepiece to keep time for the round.
   - **Time cards** will be displayed by the clerk to indicate the time remaining according to the instructions on the Time Allocation Sheet.
   - **The clerk** will not verbally announce that time has expired.

4. **Speaking order and time.** Each side has a total of 20 minutes to speak.

Moot Court Speeches	Time
Petitioner 1	Up to 10 minutes, as reserved
Petitioner 2	Up to 10 minutes, as reserved
Respondent 1	10 minutes
Respondent 2	10 minutes
Rebuttal (from either Petitioner 1 or 2)	Up to 4 minutes, as reserved

   - **The petitioner** must speak with the clerk before the round and reserve between 1 and 4 minutes for rebuttal (in whole minute increments). The remaining time is then divided evenly between the two speakers. Once the rebuttal time has been reported to the clerk and recorded on the Time Allocation Sheet, it may not be changed in the round.
   - **The respondent** must divide the 20-minute speaking time evenly between the two speakers.

- **Time** limits should be strictly observed, but the Chief Justice may allow limited extensions of time to allow a speaker to briefly answer a question or conclude a thought.

5. **Protected Time.** The first 60 seconds of each speech except the rebuttal is protected from interruption.

   - **The clerk will knock** on the table to indicate when the 1-minute protected time has ended.

   - **After the first minute,** judges may interrupt a competitor to ask questions.

   - **The rebuttal** is not protected, and judges may interrupt at any time.

6. **Electronic devices**. Debaters may not use electronic devices for notetaking or requesting, sending, or receiving information during the debate round.

7. **Exhibits.** Exhibits or visual aids are not permitted.

8. **Audience influence.** An observer may not attempt to influence the outcome of a round in any way.

9. **Questions regarding potential rule violations** should be discussed with the Compliance Staff immediately following the debate round.

Ballot Scoring Guide
Moot Court

NCFCA

This guide may be useful to assist you in assigning competitor points on the ballot. Because it is designed for your personal use, the guide does not need to be turned in with the ballot. Please rate the competitors based on their performance, not based on the case itself or on your agreement with their side of the argument.

Organization	• Introduces the central issue(s) succinctly • Provides and follows a clear outline of argument • Transitions smoothly and uses time prudently • Concludes with an appropriate request for relief
Knowledge	• Demonstrates thorough knowledge of the record • Assesses related constitutional issues • Applies relevant legal tests • Cites the record and legal cases accurately
Argumentation	• Identifies and emphasizes the central issue(s) • Presents well-reasoned arguments • Supports arguments with key facts in the record • Applies legal authority and analogous case law
Response	• Demonstrates proper deference to the judges • Answers questions directly and succinctly • Weaves answers into the overall argument • Addresses opposing arguments in the rebuttal
Delivery	• Demonstrates proper courtroom etiquette • Manages tone, volume, articulation, and pronunciation • Remains poised, professional, courteous, and confident • Maintains eye contact through limited use of notes

Moot Court Ballot

NCFCA

Petitioner:	
Respondent:	
Judge:	
Round:	Room:

PETITIONER

Petitioner 1:

	Poor . . . . Superior
Organization	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Knowledge	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Argumentation	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Response	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Delivery	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Individual Rank	Individual Score
Best . . . . Last 1st 2nd 3rd 4th	a

Comments:

Petitioner 2:

	Poor . . . . Superior
Organization	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Knowledge	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Argumentation	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Response	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Delivery	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Individual Rank	Individual Score
Best . . . . Last 1st 2nd 3rd 4th	b

Comments:

Petitioner Team Score

a ____ + b ____ = ____

RESPONDENT

Respondent 1:

	Poor . . . . Superior
Organization	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Knowledge	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Argumentation	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Response	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Delivery	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Individual Rank	Individual Score
Best . . . . Last 1st 2nd 3rd 4th	c

Comments:

Respondent 2:

	Poor . . . . Superior
Organization	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Knowledge	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Argumentation	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Response	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Delivery	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Individual Rank	Individual Score
Best . . . . Last 1st 2nd 3rd 4th	d

Comments:

Respondent Team Score

c ____ + d ____ = ____

DECISION

Petitioner	Respondent
☐	☐

Additional Comments:

Judge Signature: _____   Date: _____

TEMPLATE: Actual size is 8.5 x 14 inches.

APPENDIX D: QUALIFICATION SYSTEM

NCFCA's qualifying tournament structure provides regional and national opportunities for eligible competitors to earn at-large points and invitations to higher levels of competition.

QUALIFYING TOURNAMENTS (Table 1)

What tournaments are offered?	Who can compete?	What can be earned?	What events are offered?		
			Debate (TP/LD)	Speech* (10 Events)	Moot Court
Regional/District Qualifier	Eligible competitors within the region or district	Invitations to the Regional Championship National At-Large points	X	X*	
National Mixer	Eligible competitors from any region	Invitations to the Regional Championship Invitations to the National Championship National At-Large points	X	X*,**	X
National Open	Eligible competitors from any region	Invitations to the Regional Championship Invitations to the National Championship National At-Large points	X	X*,**	X
Regional Championship	Eligible competitors within the region who have qualified through a Regional or District Qualifier, National Mixer, or Open	Invitations to the National Championship National At-Large points	X	X	

* The largest speech event may only be one room larger than the next largest event.

** Due to timing constraints, Moot Court competitors may only compete in up to 2 speech events and may not compete in Extemporaneous.

CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENTS (Table 2)

What tournaments are offered?	Who can compete?	What can be earned?	What events are offered?		
			Debate (TP/LD)	Speech (10 Events)	Moot Court
Regional Championship	Eligible competitors within a region who have qualified through a Regional or District Qualifier, National Mixer or Open	Invitations to the National Championship National At-Large points	X	X	
National Championship	Eligible competitors from any region who have qualified through a National Mixer or Open, a Regional Championship, or National At-Large points	National Honors College Scholarships	X	X	X

REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP INVITATIONS

Invitations to a Regional Championship are extended to students from within that region who qualify at a Regional or District Qualifier, a National Mixer, or a National Open and are not rolled down for any reason.

Invitations Awarded through Qualifying Tournaments (Table 3)

Tournaments	Debate (TP / LD)	Speech (10 Events)	Moot Court
All qualifying tournaments (RQ, DQ, NM, NO)	All teams that advance to elimination rounds or are recognized at an Awards Ceremony at a qualifying tournament earn invitations to their Regional Championship	All competitors who advance to elimination rounds or are recognized at an Awards Ceremony at a qualifying tournament earn invitations to their Regional Championship	*Not offered*

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP INVITATIONS

National Championship slots will be allocated to National Mixers, National Opens, Regional Championships, and to the National At-Large System. All National Championship slots will roll down to the next competitor in line if the awarded competitor is unable to accept the invitation.

Number of Slots (Table 4)

Slots	Debate (TP / LD)	Speech (10 Events)	Moot Court
Number of Designated Slots	140	800	24

Allocation of Slots (Table 5)

Awarded through…	Debate (TP / LD)	Speech (10 Events)	Moot Court
National Mixers	1st place TP team 1st place LD team	1st place competitor in each event	1st-2nd place MC teams
National Opens	1st-2nd place TP teams 1st-2nd place LD teams	1st-2nd place competitors in each event	1st - 4th place MC teams
Regional Championships*	75% of remaining slots after the National Tournament slots above have been allocated	75% of remaining slots after the National Tournament slots above have been allocated	*Not offered*
National At-Large System**	25% of remaining slots after the National Tournament slots above have been allocated	25% of remaining slots after the National Tournament slots above have been allocated	All remaining slots after the National Tournament slots above have been allocated

*Regional Championship Slot Allocation

Divided Between Events

After all the National Championship slots to be awarded through the National Tournaments have been allocated as indicated in Table 5, 75% of the remaining National Championship slots will be proportionally distributed to each debate and speech event based on the number of unique competitors in that event nationally. Each speech event may receive no more than 18% of the speech slots allocated to the Regional Championships.

Divided Among Regions

- **Policy and Value Debate Slots.** Once slots have been allocated to each style of debate as indicated above, they will be divided proportionally among regions based on their unique participation over the course of the season.

- **Speech Slots.** Once slots have been allocated to each speech event as indicated above, they will be divided proportionally among regions based on their unique participation over the course of the season.

**National At-Large Slot Allocation

A competitor or team who is recognized at an Awards Ceremony at any qualifying tournament will earn National At-Large points according to the final placing. In order to qualify for a National At-Large slot to the National Championship in an event, a competitor (in individual events) or team (in team events) must have acquired points at a minimum of two qualifying tournaments. If a competitor or team has acquired points at more than three qualifying tournaments, the three highest point values will be used to calculate his (their) final At-Large score for that event. Points earned as a team are not eligible for division or recombination with another partner.

- **Policy and Value Debate Slots.** After all the National Championship invitations to be awarded through the National Tournaments have been allocated, 25% of the remaining National Championship debate slots will be reserved to be awarded to top-scoring teams who do not otherwise receive invitations. Slots will be proportionally distributed among debate styles based on the number of unique competitors.

- **Moot Court Slots.** After all the National Championship invitations to be awarded through the National Tournaments have been allocated, the remaining National Championship Moot Court slots will be reserved to be awarded to top-scoring teams who did not otherwise receive invitations.

- **Speech Slots.** After all the National Championship invitations to be awarded through the National Tournaments have been allocated, 25% of the remaining National Championship speech slots will be reserved to be awarded to top-scoring competitors who did not otherwise receive invitations. Slots will be proportionally distributed among events based on the number of unique competitors with no event receiving an allocation greater than 18% of the total National At-Large slots.

National At-Large Points Awarded at Qualifiers and Regional Championships (Table 7)

A competitor or team that is recognized at an Awards Ceremony will earn National At-Large points according to the final placing. If additional placings are announced beyond the number of placings indicated below, the competitor or team will earn the correct number of mathematically-derived points. These situations are outlined in the Tabulation Rules.

Final Placing	Policy and Value Debate					Speech		
	Based on maximum prescribed rounds*					Based on maximum prescribed rounds*		
	Doubles	Octas	Qtrs	Semis	Finals	Semis	Finals	Prelims
1	60	40	20	10	5	40	20	10
2	30	20.000	10.000	5.000	2.500	20.000	10.000	5.000
3	20	13.333	6.667	3.333		13.333	6.667	3.333
4	15	10.000	5.000	2.500		10.000	5.000	2.500
5	12	8.000	4.000			8.000	4.000	
6	10	6.667	3.333			6.667	3.333	
7	8.571	5.714	2.857			5.714	2.857	
8	7.500	5.000	2.500			5.000	2.500	
9	6.667	4.444				4.444		
10	6.000	4.000				4.000		
11	5.455	3.636				3.636		
12	5.000	3.333				3.333		
13	4.615	3.077				3.077		
14	4.286	2.857				2.857		
15	4.000	2.667				2.667		
16	3.750	2.500				2.500		
17	3.529					2.353		
18	3.333					2.222		
19	3.158					2.105		
20	3.000					2.000		
21	2.857					1.905		
22	2.727					1.818		
23	2.609					1.739		
24	2.500					1.667		
25	2.400					1.600		
26	2.308					1.538		
27	2.222					1.481		
28	2.143					1.429		
29	2.069					1.379		
30	2.000					1.333		
31	1.935					1.290		
32	1.875					1.250		

* Prescribed maximum rounds can be found in the Tabulation Rules.

National At-Large Points Awarded at National Mixers (Table 8)

A competitor or team that is recognized at an Awards Ceremony will earn National At-Large points according to the final placing. If additional placings are announced beyond the number of placings indicated below, the competitor or team will earn the correct number of mathematically-derived points. These situations are outlined in the Tabulation Rules.

Final Placing	Moot Court — Based on maximum prescribed rounds*					Policy and Value Debate — Based on maximum prescribed rounds*					Speech — Based on maximum prescribed rounds*		
	Doubles	Octas	Qtrs	Semis	Finals	Doubles	Octas	Qtrs	Semis	Finals	Semis	Finals	Prelims
1	Slot	Slot	Slot	Slot	Slot	Slot	Slot	Slot	Slot	Slot	Slot	Slot	Slot
2	Slot	Slot	Slot	Slot	Slot	60.000	40.000	20.000	10.000	5.000	40.000	20.000	10.000
3	60.000	40.000	20.000	10.000		30.000	20.000	10.000	5.000		20.000	10.000	5.000
4	30.000	20.000	10.000	5.000		20.000	13.333	6.667	3.333		13.333	6.667	3.333
5	20.000	13.333	6.667			15.000	10.000	5.000			10.000	5.000	
6	15.000	10.000	5.000			12.000	8.000	4.000			8.000	4.000	
7	12.000	8.000	4.000			10.000	6.667	3.333			6.667	3.333	
8	10.000	6.667	3.333			8.571	5.714	2.857			5.714	2.857	
9	8.571	5.714				7.500	5.000				5.000		
10	7.500	5.000				6.667	4.444				4.444		
11	6.667	4.444				6.000	4.000				4.000		
12	6.000	4.000				5.455	3.636				3.636		
13	5.455	3.636				5.000	3.333				3.333		
14	5.000	3.333				4.615	3.077				3.077		
15	4.615	3.077				4.286	2.857				2.857		
16	4.286	2.857				4.000	2.667				2.667		
17	4.000					3.750					2.500		
18	3.750					3.529					2.353		
19	3.529					3.333					2.222		
20	3.333					3.158					2.105		
21	3.158					3.000					2.000		
22	3.000					2.857					1.905		
23	2.857					2.727					1.818		
24	2.727					2.609					1.739		
25	2.609					2.500					1.667		
26	2.500					2.400					1.600		
27	2.400					2.308					1.538		
28	2.308					2.222					1.481		
29	2.222					2.143					1.429		
30	2.143					2.069					1.379		
31	2.069					2.000					1.333		
32	2.000					1.935					1.290		

*Prescribed maximum rounds can be found in the Tabulation Rules.

National At-Large Points Awarded at National Opens (Table 9)

A competitor or team that is recognized at an Awards Ceremony will earn National At-Large points according to the final placing. If additional placings are announced beyond the number of placings indicated below, the competitor or team will earn the correct number of mathematically-derived points. These situations are outlined in the Tabulation Rules.

Final Placing	Moot Court Based on maximum prescribed rounds*					Policy and Value Debate Based on maximum prescribed rounds*					Speech Based on maximum prescribed rounds*		
	Doubles	Octas	Qtrs	Semis	Finals	Doubles	Octas	Qtrs	Semis	Finals	Semis	Finals	Prelims
1	Slot	Slot	Slot	Slot	Slot	Slot	Slot	Slot	Slot	Slot	Slot	Slot	Slot
2	Slot	Slot	Slot	Slot	Slot	Slot	Slot	Slot	Slot	Slot	Slot	Slot	Slot
3	Slot	Slot	Slot	Slot		60.000	40.000	20.000	10.000		40.000	20.000	10.000
4	Slot	Slot	Slot	Slot		30.000	20.000	10.000	5.000		20.000	10.000	5.000
5	60.000	40.000	20.000	10.000		20.000	13.333	6.667			13.333	6.667	
6	30.000	20.000	10.000	5.000		15.000	10.000	5.000			10.000	5.000	
7	20.000	13.333	6.667	3.3333		12.000	8.000	4.000			8.000	4.000	
8	15.000	10.000	5.000	2.5		10.000	6.667	3.333			6.667	3.333	
9	12.000	8.000				8.571	5.714				5.714		
10	10.000	6.667				7.500	5.000				5.000		
11	8.571	5.714				6.667	4.444				4.444		
12	7.500	5.000				6.000	4.000				4.000		
13	6.667	4.444				5.455	3.636				3.636		
14	6.000	4.000				5.000	3.333				3.333		
15	5.455	3.636				4.615	3.077				3.077		
16	5.000	3.333				4.286	2.857				2.857		
17	4.615					4.000					2.667		
18	4.286					3.750					2.500		
19	4.000					3.529					2.353		
20	3.750					3.333					2.222		
21	3.529					3.158					2.105		
22	3.333					3.000					2.000		
23	3.158					2.857					1.905		
24	3.000					2.727					1.818		
25	2.857					2.609					1.739		
26	2.727					2.500					1.667		
27	2.609					2.400					1.600		
28	2.500					2.308					1.538		
29	2.400					2.222					1.481		
30	2.308					2.143					1.429		
31	2.222					2.069					1.379		
32	2.143					2.000					1.333		

* Prescribed maximum rounds can be found in the Tabulation Rules.