



## Extemporaneous Apologetics Essentials

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### Vision

To provide an event that will prepare students to:

- rightly handle the Word;
- communicate the truths of God with kindness, gentleness, and humility;
- and carry out the mission of Christian Communicators of America to always be ready to make a defense of the Christian faith.

Extemporaneous Apologetics (EA) emphasizes and encourages systematic, in-depth study of various points of doctrine of the Christian faith while at the same time providing a limited preparation style speech delivered in a conversational manner.

The event is not intended to replicate a real life apologetic scenario. Rather the event is designed to be a training ground to prepare the student to think biblically and apologetically.

*“The mission of Christian Communicators of America (CCA) is to assist parents who are home educating their children with the development of communication and critical thinking skills, equipping these children to be faithful servants of the Lord Jesus Christ by preparing them to give a defense of their faith to everyone who asks for a reason for the hope that is within them, and to do so with grace, seasoned with salt.”*

*“Believers, in 1 Peter 3:15, are admonished to ‘...always be ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you...’ The Christian should always be prepared to provide such an answer, and yet, do so ‘...with gentleness and respect.’”*

<http://www.ccadebate.org/about-cca/our-mission/>

### Goals

Through preparation and competition, Extemporaneous Apologetics aims to:

- help students and families grow spiritually through systematic theological training;
- prepare students to give a defense for their faith;
- encourage study and research of essential doctrine;
- help students practice communicating theological truth with gentleness, kindness, respect, and humility.

### Definitions

**Apologetics is:**

- the development of an engaging and intellectual defense of the Christian faith
- spoken with gentleness and respect
- in the language of the audience
- intended to remove misunderstandings and objections
- for the purpose of persuading the hearer that the Christian faith is reasonable and true

### **Further thoughts on the term apologetics:**

Apologetics is a defense – taken from the Greek word *apologia* that requires thought and reasoning and thus requires development.

It should be engaging and spoken with gentleness and respect as is instructed in 1 Peter 3:15.

The defense should be spoken in the language of the audience as Paul did so well in Acts and as C.S. Lewis instructs in the following quote: “We must learn the language of our audience . . . You have to find out by experience . . . you must translate every bit of theology into the vernacular . . .”

The purpose of apologetics is to remove misunderstandings and objections to clear the way for evangelism (Alistair McGrath, *Mere Apologetics*) thus we are seeking to persuade the hearer of the plausibility and truthfulness (veracity) of the claims of Christianity.

### **Extemporaneous is:**

- prepared in advance but delivered using few or no notes: *extemporaneous lectures*.
- Extemporaneous means "prepared in advance and carried out with few or no notes," while impromptu means "totally unprepared, performed on the spur of the moment"

<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/extemporaneous>

### **Approach**

The primary resource needed to be prepared for EA is the Word of God. The topics that will be discussed in EA will come from classic, biblically-based theological references. A four-year topic rotation for the event is provided. Theological resources that are in agreement with the CCA Statement of Faith may be used in preparation for this event. Students are expected to put into their own words their understanding of truth and their reasoned defense of the faith through in-depth study of God’s Word and doctrinal research. The student’s reasoned and researched response should be communicated in a conversational tone that is respectful and with a kind, gentle, and humble attitude.

### **Event Specifics**

A four-year topic rotation is provided. Based on topics from the rotation, students will fill a 3”x5” file box with scripture and quotations. Prepared speeches, student’s original work, and facsimiles of sections from resources are NOT allowed in the file box. Students are encouraged to have quotes of scripture and outside resources that support their researched defense of the topic in the box. Students are discouraged from quoting one outside source extensively in lieu of presenting their own researched defense of the topic. At competition, students are allowed their file box, a blank 3”x5” card, and a Bible during preparation time. The file box and the Bible must remain at the preparation table during the presentation. During the round, students will be given a question or statement related to the topic. Students are given up to five minutes to prepare a five minute speech. Students are not required to use all of their prep time. This time allotment should allow students to utilize their file box adequately. Students are allowed to use the question/statement card, their original speech notes written on a 3”x5” card during preparation time, and any quote or scripture cards from the file box. The judge will ask the question/statement, and students will address the judge(s) in a conversational tone. Violations are given for not using scripture, failing to adhere to the topic, and going overtime.