
CHRISTIAN COMMUNICATORS OF AMERICA

INDIVIDUAL EVENT CRITERIA & COMPETITOR STANDARDS

Scope

This document makes suggestions for appropriate penalties for all of the rules listed in the Criteria and Competitor Standards. Penalties should be discussed with the IE Tab Coordinator or the Adjudication Committee if necessary. This document is by no means a rules document nor should it be treated as such, but is simply the recommendations of the IE Committee (IEC) should infractions of the rules occur. This document does not contain every rule, but only those that do not have penalties in place in other documents.

User's Guide

The following are the potential penalties a Tournament Director (TD) may choose to administer. These penalties are not a replacement for any of the pre-specified rank violations.

- Conversation and Admonition (CA) – There are times when an infraction is best dealt with through discussion with the student, their parent, and/or the coach.
- Forfeiture of round (F) – This penalty results in the student receiving 0 (zero) points and a rank of 6th (or the lowest rank possible in that room) for that round, in the event, or in the events affected by the infraction.
- Disqualification (DQ) – In this case the competitor will be disqualified from the event for the remainder of the tournament. They may compete in their other events.

In this document the specific criteria and regulations for each genre and event are listed followed by the suggested penalty if that rule is broken. Only previously unspecified rules and infractions that occur at a tournament in rounds are listed. Participation requirements are not addressed here.

When an incident occurs or a rule is broken that can be corrected before the next round, students are expected to do so. After that, if they have not complied with the TD's instruction, they are subject to disqualification. Those previous rounds where the infraction was initially noted are subject to forfeiture.

Biblical Worldview

For virtually every topic or subject matter, viewpoints and opinions are held that may contradict the principles of the Word of God. Some of these viewpoints are overtly secular or blatantly sinful, yet all subjects can be approached from a biblical perspective where truth is upheld. Topics and literature that have an overtly Christian message are not required for any event in CCA. Students are encouraged to engage topics that our culture and world discuss. However, students and coaches are responsible for examining the perspective presented to ensure that the messages and themes in the speeches and chosen topics do not contradict biblical principles and the fundamental truths of the Bible.

DQ/CA

Standards for all IE categories

- No student may compete with a selection of literature or topic of public address, whether a different adaptation, arrangement, or approach, used by that student in a prior year of competition in CCA or any other Forensics Competition.
- Vulgarity and profanity are prohibited.
- Costumes are prohibited.
- Props (except Visual Aids in Public Address Events) are prohibited.

DQ

DQ/CA

F

F

Script Submissions

By tournament check-in, each competitor must submit a copy of the script with a completed Official CCA Script Cover Page (located on the CCA website). Failure to submit a complete script is grounds for disqualification in that event.

DQ

Portrayal of God

Any representation or portrayal of the Triune God, including words attributed to Him and vocal and physical characterization of Him, shall be biblically accurate, guided by biblical principles, honoring to Him, and edifying to the audience. Failure is grounds for disqualification.

DQ

ORAL INTERPRETATION

GENERAL STANDARDS

The Literature

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

- All literature must be from a published source. To verify this, documentation must be provided that meets the requirements listed under “Script Submissions.”
- Original work is prohibited.
- Literature available exclusively online may be used for all events in the Oral Interpretation category with the exception of the Prose and Poetry Oral Interpretation events.

All script submissions that do not meet the requirements are subject to disqualification

Presentation

Forensic Notebook

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

DQ

Original Introduction

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

- The introduction may not exceed one minute.
- A forty-five second “teaser” is permitted before the original introduction, and is not included in the one-minute time limit for the introduction.
- The introduction is the only place original words are permitted in an Oral Interpretation.

F

F

F

F/DQ

Movement

- The Competitor may not take more than one step in any direction from the center starting position.
- The only body part allowed to touch the floor is the feet.
- The competitor should render an original interpretation of the selection and should not mimic actors' portrayals from any movie or television production based on that piece of literature.

All movement violations are subject to forfeiture of round

Visual Aids

Visual aids are prohibited.

DQ/F

ORAL INTERPRETATION

EVENT SPECIFIC STANDARDS

Poetry Interpretation (POE)

- Selections from the Bible are to be reserved for the event of Bible Interpretation.
- Song lyrics are prohibited. Writings originally published as poetry and later set to music, such as “The Star-Spangled Banner,” are permitted.

DQ

DQ

Prose Interpretation (PR)

- Selections from the Bible are to be reserved for the event of Bible Interpretation.

DQ

Humorous Interpretation (HI)

- The presentation must include a single selection of published dramatic scripts ("dramatic" meaning a play script, radio script, or a movie or television screenplay).
- Selections should contain a substantial amount of humor.

DQ

DQ/CA

Humorous Duo Interpretation (HDuo)

- The presentation must include a single selection of published dramatic scripts ("dramatic" meaning a play script, radio script, or a movie or television screenplay).
- Selections should contain a substantial amount of humor.
- HDuo partners must not look directly at one another when in character, though eye contact is permitted during the introduction.
- HDuo partners must not physically touch each other.

DQ

DQ/CA

F

F/DQ

Bible Interpretation (BI)

- The selection must be taken from the sixty-six books of the Old or New Testaments and be from one of the following translations: New International Version (NIV), King James Version (KJV), New King James Version (NKJV), English Standard Version (ESV), or New American Standard Bible (NASB).
- The tone of the piece should be of a serious nature. Humor is permitted, but it must be respectful and in no way dishonoring to the Word of God.

DQ

DQ/CA

Dramatic Interpretation (DI)

- Selections must be primarily of a serious nature. Minimal humor is permitted.

CA

Dramatic Duo Interpretation (DDuo)

- Movement needs to be within one step in any direction from a center starting position for each competitor. The partners may share space allowing them to switch places with each other during the presentation.
- DDuo partners must not look directly at one another when in character, although eye contact is permitted during the introduction.
- DDuo partners must not physically touch each other.

F

F

F/DQ

PUBLIC ADDRESS

GENERAL STANDARDS

Content

Topics

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

DQ

Citations

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

- Citations must be used for both direct and indirect quotations. Unless information is “common knowledge” or comes personally from the competitor, citation must be given.
- Citations must include *when* it was said or written, *where* the quote was found, and if applicable, *who* said or wrote the quotation.
- Direct quotations from outside sources must not exceed 200 words total for the entire speech.

All citation violations not addressed on the ballot are subject to DQ.

Presentation

Visual Aids

Visual aids are permitted in all PA events. Visual aids may include sketches, charts, graphs, diagrams, photographs, artwork, or computer generated images.

- Three-dimensional objects are prohibited.
- Audio materials are prohibited
- All visual aids must be attached to a black presentation board no larger than 20" x 30".
- The visual aids must be physically covered before speaking begins, and covered again at the completion of the speech.

DQ

DQ

DQ

F

PUBLIC ADDRESS

EVENT SPECIFIC STANDARDS

Informative (INF)

- Persuasive and motivational topics should be avoided, though topics with compelling implications of any nature are encouraged.
- Biographical topics are to be reserved for the event “Biographical Informative.”

DQ

DQ

Biographical Informative (BINF)

- The material presented must be on a single historical or contemporary individual.
- Speakers may not advocate a position that contradicts biblical principles.

DQ

DQ

Cultural Criticism (CC)

- The presentation must identify an “artifact” from current American popular culture.

DQ

Persuasive (PER)

- The presentation must contain a thesis that is primarily persuasive.
- Speakers may not advocate a position that contradicts biblical principles.

CA/DQ

LIMITED PREPARATION

GENERAL STANDARDS

Topics and Topic Integrity

- Competitors must return the topic card or prompt to the judge after their presentation.
- No competitor is permitted to listen to other speeches of that event before speaking in that round.

F

F

The Note Card

- The competitor may use both sides of a single, 3" x 5" note card for making notes during prep and for reference during the speech. The card must be blank at the start of the prep time.
- Note cards from previous tournaments are not permitted during the preparation time or the speech.
- Only one card with the competitor's original notes (created during the event prep time) is permitted during the speech (IM and EA). For Extemporaneous Apologetics, prepared notecards from the 3" x 5" file box containing only properly cited scriptures and quotations are allowed during the presentation. The competitor is not allowed to hold the file box or access the file box during the presentation.
- The topic card itself may be used during the speech for the purpose of reading the question or quotation verbatim.
- The competitor must remain in the room during his preparation time.
- These rules apply to News Analysis with minor differences. Please reference the event description for those differences.

All notecard violations are subject to forfeiture of the round in which infraction occurred.

Presentation

Content

- Prepared outlines are prohibited.

F/DQ

Visual Aids

Visual aids are prohibited.

F

LIMITED PREPARATION

EVENT SPECIFIC STANDARDS

Impromptu

Preparation Time

The competitor may use only a single blank 3" x 5" card and a writing implement during prep time.

F

News Analysis

File Boxes, Preparation, and the Prompt

- An evidence box may be used during prep time only. It must be closed and placed on the floor during the presentation.
- Evidence box must not contain electronics. A calculator is permitted.
- Only the 8 ½" by 11" prompt and a writing utensil will be permitted on the desk during the speech. Competitors may write on the prompt. After the speech is over, the competitor will return the prompt with the notes to the envelope and give it to the judge.

Violations of these rules are subject to DQ or F

Extemporaneous Apologetics

File Box and Note Card

- A study or apologetics Bible is not permitted during prep time. A concordance in the back of the Bible is permitted.
- The 3" x 5" file box should contain only properly cited scriptures and quotations. Outlines and personal notes are prohibited.
- A single 3" x 5" note card with the speaker's original notes, and note cards from the file box, may be used during the speech. The file box and the Bible must remain at the prep table during the presentation.

All file/note card violations are subject to forfeiture of round.