

IFCA INTERNATIONAL • YOUTH CONVENTION
NATIONAL APOLOGETICS
MINISTRY TRAINING AREA (MTA)
Rules & Guidelines

➤ **PURPOSE**

To prepare our students to defend truth in everyday social settings understanding that God's Word is the final authority for life and practice (2 Pet. 1.3), each participant will use Scripture as their foundation to defend the biblical position for one of the provided topics. Student arguments will include sound logic and will likely include secular resources, all the while presupposing biblical authority. Col. 4:5-6

➤ **RULES**

1. Entrants must select **one** of the **three** provided topics to prepare to defend.
2. In this MTA you may participate alone or with a partner (making a duo.) In the duo format the time of presentation must be split equally and the Q&A time must also be split equally. In the duo format, the evaluation of the presentation will be of the pair, not as two separate individuals.
3. The Junior High Division consists of teens that have completed grades 7-9. The Senior High Division consists of teens that have completed grades 10-12.
4. All entrants must provide three (3) copies, in outline form, of the topic and presentation they will be sharing, along with three (3) copies of an evaluation form. These copies will be brought to registration on the first day of the convention. *Please DO NOT SEND your outline prior to the convention.*
5. The same presentation must be used throughout the Regional and National Ministry Training Areas.
6. Each presentation must be one that has not been previously evaluated by the entrant at the IFCA National Youth Convention.

➤ **EVALUATION**

1. A panel of 3 persons will evaluate each entry. There are 6 categories of evaluation on the Apologetics Ministry Training Area Evaluation Form. Make sure to look at the evaluation form so that you know what to focus on and how to best structure your presentation.
2. Each evaluator will assign a division 1, division 2 or division 3 rating for each category. The overall score will be calculated by taking an average of the scores awarded from all 3 evaluators.

Final Division Rating	Average Score
Division 1	1.0 – 1.5
Division 2	1.6 – 2.4
Division 3	2.5 – 3.0

Note: The National Ministry Training Area evaluators are advised to consider the age and experience of the entrant in the evaluation process and score accordingly.

2. An introduction must be made by the delegate, which includes his name, church, and the title of their presentation.

3. The lead evaluator will designate the official timekeeper. The length of each senior entry will consist of a presentation time and a Q&A time with three evaluators. The overall length of time for each entry will be 25 minutes. The presentation time must be 10-15 minutes. The length of each Novice entry will consist of a presentation time and a Q&A time with three evaluators. The overall length of time for each entry will be 20 minutes. The presentation time will be no longer than 5-10 minutes. Time does not include the introduction before the presentation. *(This reflects a desire to pour into our students, and making that the bigger priority)*

4. Dress Guidelines

Men — shirts w/collar, dress pants (no jeans), socks and shoes, or sandals.

Women—blouses, dress pants (no jeans), knee-length skirts, or knee-length dresses, shoes or sandals. (No flip-flops.)

➤ HINTS

1. It is not enough just to make a presentation entirely from a Bible verse or two. Please use the Bible as your foundation, explaining truth in its context, but also use other sources so that your presentation is multi-faceted.
2. Make sure to identify and “source” one or more main arguments against the truth you are defending during your presentation. Also be ready to defend any opposing viewpoints that may arise by the evaluators in the Q&A time.
3. The proposition (main idea) needs to be communicated clearly and confidently but beware of arrogance in your presentation, either through your words, or attitude conveyed. Remember arrogant apologetics never win.
4. Remember that good questions offered that are hard to answer by the opposition, due to well-presented truth is a good idea.
5. Saying, “I don’t know” to a question asked by the evaluators is not a “fail.” Making up an answer on the spot is. Always be honest.

➤ SCHOLARSHIPS

This MTA is still in beta format. There are no scholarships for this MTA until it has become an official MTA. (Target date 2018)

Questions? Contact:

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