

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. All entries shall consist of one of the three provided topics in each given year.
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 shall be limited to students having completed grades 7-9, and the Senior High Division to those having completed grades 10-12. (An entry consisting of a duo is considered a Senior High entry when either member of the duo has completed grades 10-12.)
4. All entrants must provide three (3) copies, in typed outline form, of the topic and presentation they will be sharing, along with three (3) copies of a correctly filled-out evaluation form. **These three (3) copies of all MTA submission materials must be presented at registration on the first day of convention.** The final deadline for all MTA materials to be received in the Convention Office is no later than 8pm the first day of Convention.
5. The same presentation must be used throughout both Regional and National MTA events must not have been previously evaluated at an IFCA National Youth Convention.
6. Presentation Attire Guidelines
  - All clothing must be **modest**—appropriate for the worship environment. Any questions or concerns can be directed to [mta@ifcayouth.org](mailto:mta@ifcayouth.org).
  - **Young Men:** Dress pants (no jeans), dress shirt with collar, belt and dress shoes; no flip-flops. Hair must be clean and neatly groomed.
  - **Young Ladies:** Dress or blouse with skirt or dress pants (no jeans). Dress shoes or sandals; no flip-flops. Hair must be clean and neatly groomed.

## ➤ 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. 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.

<b>Final Division Rating</b>	<b>Average Score</b>
Division 1 (best)	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 presenter(s), which includes their name(s), church, IFCA region, and the title of their presentation.
3. The lead evaluator will designate the official timekeeper. The length of each **Senior High** 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 30 minutes. **The presentation time will be no longer than 15 minutes.**

The length of each **Junior High** 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 will be no longer than 12 minutes.** Time does not include the introduction before the presentation.

4. Evaluators will meet with presenters to give verbal feedback in addition to their written feedback. Evaluation forms and materials will be returned to students via their church leaders at the end of Convention.

## ➤ 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. 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.
3. Addressing the main arguments of the opposition and demonstrating an understanding of their position not only lends legitimacy to your argument, but it puts you in a position to ask well-reasoned, hard-to-answer questions based on biblical truth and the biblical worldview. Avoid straw-man arguments and inflammatory questions.
4. Presenters should have clear, biblical answers to each of the listed questions on the yearly Apologetics Topics document. The evaluators will use these questions and presenter

answers as a springboard for further questions. Many presenters attempt to answer some of the questions by addressing them in their presentations

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.
6. Example Outline of an expository sermon (the outline of the sermon reflects the outline of the text being preached):

Proposition: There are only two genders: male and female as God has created them

I. Introduction

II. Main Arguments

A. Arguments from Nature

1. False arguments
2. Refutation and true arguments

B. Arguments from Experience

1. False arguments
2. Refutation and true arguments

C. Argument from God's Authoritative Word

1. God's Word is the final authority for life and practice
2. Created in God's Image, male and female

III. Conclusion

*(This is just a skeleton outline for illustration purposes only)*

➤ **SCHOLARSHIPS**

Scholarships may be awarded to students in grades 11 or 12 who are awarded an overall Division I rating.

**Questions? Contact:**

**Pastor Andy Huber**

NATIONAL MINISTRY TRAINING AREA COORDINATOR  
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