



The Arkansas Oak

Junior Tournament

Guidelines

- Juniors events are for 7-11 year old students only
- Juniors Speech registration fee is a flat \$20 per student
- Junior debate is FREE
- Juniors can register through Family Registration, the same as senior students
- Juniors may register for a maximum of four speech events, plus junior debate
- There will not be any finals for Juniors

There will be 2 rounds for the Juniors in the following categories

- Junior Apologetics
- Junior Bible Story Impromptu
- Junior Duo Interp
- Junior Expository
- Junior Impromptu
- Junior Individual Interp
- Junior Platform

****Juniors students should plan to be in the Juniors competition area 15 minutes before the start of each round****

Juniors Judges

- We would like to use Senior students to judge the Juniors events
- Senior students who would like to judge Juniors speech events need to meet at least ONE of the following criteria:

*** Have participated in STOA as a Senior for a year
* Are at least 14 years old**

- Sign-up sheets will be available throughout the tournament.
- Juniors Judges need to arrive at least 15 minutes before each round in order to judge. They will be required to go through a short judges' orientation prior to judging.

Juniors Apologetics Questions:

The following questions will be used for this event:
Junior Apologetics Questions 2024-2025:

1. Who is Jesus?
2. How does the Holy Spirit help us?
3. What is creation?
4. What is the fall?
5. Why did Jesus have to die?
6. Is Jesus the only Savior/way to heaven?
7. What is grace?
8. What is prayer?
9. What is sin?
10. What is the Bible?
11. Why must Jesus be truly human and truly God?
12. How many persons are there in God?

Topics for Junior Bible Story Impromptu

2024-25 Bible Story Impromptu Topics

1. Healing of Naaman
2. Jonah
3. Noah's Ark
4. Christ is Born
5. Jesus turns water into wine
6. Jesus calms the storm
7. The burning bush
8. The Tomb is Empty
9. Jesus walks on water
10. Prodigal son
11. Daniel in the lions' den
12. Saul becomes Paul

Note: The Stoa guidelines for using timers that face students will be used for the Junior tournament as well. However, no penalties will be assessed for going over time.

Junior Debate:

There will be 2 rounds of debate.

The resolution for Junior Debate this year is:

Resolved: In US history, Benjamin Franklin was more important than Thomas Jefferson

The following rules and guidelines will be used:

Debate Format:

1 Affirmative Constructive - 3 minutes

CX - 1 minute (2nd Negative Speaker cross-exams 1st Affirmative Speaker)

1 Negative Constructive - 3 minutes

CX - 1 minute (1st Affirmative Speaker cross-exams 1st Negative Speaker)

2 Affirmative Constructive - 3 minutes

CX - 1 minute (1st Negative Speaker cross-exams 2nd Affirmative Speaker)

2 Negative Constructive - 3 minutes

CX - 1 minute (2nd Affirmative Speaker cross-exams 2nd Negative Speaker)

1 Negative Rebuttal - 3 minutes

1 Affirmative Rebuttal - 3 minutes

2 Negative Rebuttal - 3 minutes

2 Affirmative Rebuttal - 3 minutes

Each Team will have a total of 5 minutes of prep time

Rules :

1. A team consists of two junior competitors. The team must not switch partners during the tournament.

2. There is an affirmative team and a negative team. The affirmative must uphold the resolution. The negative may negate the resolution and/or the affirmative's case.

3. Each team has a total budget of 5 minutes of preparation time which may be used or discarded as desired by the teams. The five minutes cover both partners of the team (i.e. if the 1st negative speaker uses all 5 minutes for his/her 1st negative constructive, then no prep time is available for any other negative speech). A debater may take prep time before any speech except the 1st Affirmative Constructive. A debater may not take prep time before a cross-examination.

4. Evidence from a source must be publicly available. The evidence must be physically present on paper and be available to the opposing team and to the judge if requested.
5. Debaters may not display props or visual aids to the judge.
6. The judge will fill out a ballot that will be given to the junior debaters after the awards ceremony. On the ballot will be the decision about which team won the round as well as specific feedback for each speaker.
7. No new arguments are allowed in the rebuttal speeches (see helpful hints #3).

Evidence Guidelines

- Evidence may be an article, quote, or paragraph from a book, newspaper, or online source.
- You must include the entire paragraph that your evidence is found in to make sure appropriate context is included. However, you do not have to read the entire paragraph.
- NO MANIPULATION of the evidence (cutting out or adding words or moving around sentences) is allowed.
- The source (along with credentials) and date of when the evidence was published must be included in your citation and read aloud to judge and opponents when presenting the evidence.

Helpful Hints & Explanations

1. Debate is a competition between 2 teams, each supporting their side of the resolution. Affirmative is affirming the resolution (yes, the resolution is true). The negative team negates the resolution (no, the resolution isn't true).
2. Constructive Speech Purpose: Constructive speeches are used to introduce and build arguments in the round and/or to respond to previous speakers.
3. Rebuttal Speech Purpose: Rebuttal speeches are used to respond to and extend existing lines of argumentation and to emphasize the most important issues in the round. No new arguments may be presented in rebuttal speeches. New evidence, examples, analysis, analogies, etc. that support previously introduced lines of argumentation, are permitted in rebuttal speeches.
4. There will be two rounds of debate providing each team the opportunity to debate the resolution on both the Affirmative and Negative positions.
5. An older student will be present with each team to make sure the junior competitors speak in the correct order.

6. Each debate team member should bring 5-8 “cards” of evidence for both Affirmative and Negative sides of the resolutions.

a. “Tag lines” are helpful titles for each piece of evidence to sum up what the main argument or point of the evidence is.

b. Practice reading the evidence before the tournament to make sure you know how to pronounce the tricky words and understand what they mean

7. Pens, notebooks/flowpads, sticky-notes, evidence, water, and copy of these rules are allowed in the round.

8. HAVE FUN! This is a learning experience for everyone and so make sure to relax and have fun!

Rules and Ballots for all Junior Events:

[junior-rules-apologetics.pdf](#)

[juniors-ballot-apologetics.pdf](#)

[junior-rules-bible-story-impromptu.pdf](#)

[juniors-ballot-bible-story-imp.pdf](#)

[junior-rules-expository.pdf](#)

[juniors-ballot-expository.pdf](#)

[junior-rules-interps.pdf](#)

[juniors-ballot-individual-interpretation.pdf](#)

[juniors-ballot-duo-interpretation.pdf](#)

[junior-rules-platform.pdf](#)

[juniors-ballot-platform.pdf](#)

Debate ballots coming soon!