

Why Christians *Should* Debate

and How to Do It More Effectively

When Apollos wanted to go to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. On arriving, he was a great help to those who by grace had believed. For he vigorously refuted the Jews in **public debate**, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.
(Acts 18:27-28)

Define Debate: "The pursuit of truth based on reason, evidence, and refutation in which two or more sides are discussed." -Griffith William Vertican, Esq.

I. You must recognize that it is your _____

1) To _____ the church and _____ the saints (Acts 18)

2) To _____ for the faith (Jude 3)

3) To _____ others over

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.
(1Peter 3:15)

II. You must learn how to _____

A. At a minimum every argument has a _____ and a _____.

B. Ideally the argument is supported by _____ and for Christians the ultimate evidence is the _____.

C. 3 Questions to ask to assess the _____:

- 1) Is this a good time for us to have a civil and respectful discussion about this issue?
- 2) If what you believed is wrong, would you want to know it?
- 3) I don't know about that, but can I tell you what Jesus has done for me?

III. You must remember to be _____

1) R-E-S-P-E-C-T those who _____
But do this with gentleness and respect. (1 Peter 3:15b)

2) Remember the pig! Don't _____
Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces. (Matthew 7:6)

3) Speak the truth in _____
Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. (Ephesians 4:15)

Debate & Apologetic Resources

1. RenewaNation

Renew is at the forefront of bring new resources and classes on Rhetoric, Logic, Apologetics, and Debate to the Christian school classroom. In 2025 we will be launching our new Apollos debate training ministry, which will including new teaching resources for implementing apologetic and debate skills in the classroom.

So be on the lookout for updates and make sure you are on the email list with RenewaNation - www.renewanation.org/

2. Intro to Debate Class (live over Zoom)

This class is perfect for teachers, parents, administrators, and students who are new to academic debate. National champion Coach Griffith Vertican will teach you the art of mastering competitive academic debate which includes: the three pillars of debate, how to make a scientific argument, how to find better evidence, 4 responses to any argument, 4-point refutation, intro to cross-examination, how to be a more dynamic communicator, and how to give a game-changing rebuttal.

By the end of the semester parents and teachers will have gained the knowledge and skills to lead their own competitive debate class and be proficient with the tactical skills for informal apologetics.

Fall Semester:

- **September 9 - December 9, 2024**
- **Mondays - Live Zoom Classes Every Monday 3:30pm EST** *Even if you cannot make the class time, recordings will be available to all class attendees.
- Cost: \$199/semester *scholarship help available.
- <https://www.nihdprocoach.com/debate-101>

*Coach Griffith is available to speak at your event and to run camps/workshops contact him directly at **909 289 9856**.

**For information on classes, private coaching, tournaments, blogs, and more, head over to - www.nihdprocoach.com

3. Stand to Reason

STR has great answers to today's most difficult questions - www.str.org

4. Reasonable Faith

A great apologetic resource with solid logical and evidence based answers - www.reasonablefaith.org

5. NIHD Speech and Debate Camp

The 17th Annual NIHD Speech and Debate Camp - **August 12th - 16th** - Twin Peaks, California

Top 5 Reasons to come to NIHD:

1. **Christ-Centered**
From morning devotions to evening chapels, we maintain a Christ-first focus. Students love NIHD's worship sessions!
2. **Top Notch Staff**
We maintain a low student-to-staff ratio of about 8 to 1, and recruit top talent who are aligned with the mission of NIHD to prepare warriors for Christ.
3. **Ideal Preparation**
Your student will jump-start their season by competing in the camp tournament, learning about the resolution topics, and utilizing NIHD's original casebooks.
4. **Family-Friendly**
This year's camp will be especially family-friendly, with a great location, discounted on-campus housing, and a track designed just for parents and coaches. The NIHD experience includes extended family-fun time and special social events like group hikes, spectacular camp activities, and so much more!
5. **Great Value**
Thanks to Oak Brook College of Law and the California Family Council, this year's camp is an incredible value and will be at least \$50 less than last year's camp. We also offer sibling discounts, host housing (for those who can't afford to stay at the camp), and ministry scholarships.

See nihd.homeschooldebate.net for more information, or call Coach Griffith at **909 289 9856**.