Sermon

The Expositional Preaching category is for men. Women may participate in other verbal categories such as Public Speaking or Biblical Prose. An expositional sermon is at its essence two things. It is expositional: it exposes the meaning of what the author intended to communicate. Secondly (and you may have already guessed it) an expositional sermon is a sermon: it is not just a laying out of the facts and interpretations of the passage (like a lecture). It is a plea to the audience to think and/or act because of what God says in His Word. The sermon must be your own composition, though it is encouraged and even expected that you would have somone coach you through the process. Plagiarism, or other "borrowing" of significant themes, thoughts, or ideas and presenting them as original will result in complete disqualification.

Please use one of the following English translations of the Bible for your primary preaching text, and note which one you use in your bibliography (this list is in unprioritized, alphabetical order): ESV, HCSB(CSB), KJV(NKJV), NASB. You may reference other translations in your sermon.

Bibliography

You must cite in your bibliography all the resources you consulted in preparing your sermon. A minimum of five entries in addition to your Bible(s) should be provided. Prepare your bibliography for electronic delivery in either PDF or Word format. (The bibliography may be in the same document as the outline you submit.)

There are various widely accepted formats for bibliographies including APA, MLA, Turabian, etc. A quick internet search will help you find a format and use it well. Whichever format you use, use it consistently. Types of references you may use include but are not limited to:

- Books
- Periodicals - published journals, magazines, newspapers
- Websites

Outline

Your outline should include the following content: title, topic, introduction, two to five main points, two subpoints for each main point, illustrations, and conclusion. Your points should be constructed in a parallel form (Example: God Created All Things Perfectly, Man Corrupted All Things Thoroughly, God Redeems All Things Graciously). Prepare your outline for electronic delivery in either PDF or Word format.

Time

You will have eight to ten minutes to present your sermon. You will be notified when you have one minute left, and you must stop when notified your time is complete.

Presentation

You may use your Bible, a copy of your outline, and the provided lectern while preaching your sermon. No visuals or objects such as charts, drawings, or props may be used.

Interview

Following your sermon you will be asked an interview question by a judge. You will have up to one minute to respond to the question. You will be signaled to stop if you go over the alloted time. The judges will score you based on the organization of your thought, the content of your response, and your use of grammar.

Scoring Criteria

- Theme (10 points) - meaningful, clearly from the scriptural passage used, appropriate breadth (not too broad or narrow), well-stated, clearly defined
- Biblical Content (10 points) - original message, biblical integrity, use of supporting material
- Persuasion (10 points) - charge to the audience to change or continue a particular action or belief
- Arrangement/Organization (10 points) - logical progression of thoughts; smooth transitions; balance of intellectual, emotional, and persuasive elements
- Introduction/Conclusion (10 points) - concise, effective
- Illustrations (10 points) - purposeful, effective, emphasizes a point from the passage, appropriate length
- Style/Articulation (10 points) - grammar, pronunciation, breath support, dynamic volume, speed
- Delivery (10 points) - eye contact, posture, expressiveness, gestures, sincerity, confidence, freedom from dependance on notes
- Interview Question (10 points) - content, delivery, grammar
- General Requirements (10 points) - Appropriate Attire (3 points), stayed within time constraints (3 points), all materials present (4 points for all, 2 points for partial)

Church Ministry Statement

EQUIP exists to assist churches in their effort to '…equip the saints for the work of the ministry, for building up the body of Christ…' (Ephesians 4:12), therefore we require that participants preach at church or some other pastor-

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approved ministry. Fill out the Church Ministry Statement (found at iarbc.org/equipsubmissions) including the date and location of your ministry presentation.

Doctrinal Agreement
EQUIP is for 7th – 12th grade students who are members in good standing of an IARBC church. Students in 7th – 12th grade who are members in good standing of a non-IARBC church may participate if their pastor (or other church officer in the absence of a pastor) certifies that their church is in agreement with the doctrinal statement of the Iowa Association of Regular Baptist Churches. Certification of membership and doctrinal agreement is made on the Church Ministry Statement.

Submissions
You will need to submit your outline and bibliography electronically by following the instructions found at iarbc.org/equipsubmissions. The deadline will be two weeks before the competition date. If you make changes to your outline between the time you submit it and the competition, you will need to provide the judges with three up-to-date copies of your outline on the day of competition.

At the time of competition, you will need to hand the judges your completed Church Ministry Statement.

Competition Attire
Attire guidelines for EQUIP will be considered "business casual." For EQUIP, we ask our male competitors to wear a collared shirt paired with dress pants or khakis with a belt. All clothing should be loose-fitting, though not necessarily baggy. You may dress up more than the aforementioned guidelines, just do so in a manner that is sharp and modest. (For example, a young man wearing an oversized sport coat from his dad may technically be "dressier," but the same young man wearing an ironed button-down shirt that fits properly will look sharper.) Our desire at EQUIP is that our attire would be modest and undistracting.

Division Differences
Division 3 students (grade 7-8) will have six to eight minutes for the sermon, and will not have an interview question.

More Information
Additional important competition information regarding registration, scholarships, division definitions, and more can be found at iarbc.org/equip