

PREACHING

Scholarship and Open



TOPIC

Your message is to be expositional (development of a particular passage) or topical (development of a topic from several passages). You will have a stronger message by communicating a specific topic rather than a broad topic. You may seek assistance in selecting a passage or a topic, but the sermon itself must be your own composition. For your message, you may use a Bible and a lectern that is provided, but you may not use visuals (e.g., posters, charts).

OUTLINE

When composing your sermon, include in your outline the topic, an introduction, two to five main points with at least two subpoints for each main point, and a conclusion.

Outline points should be parallel in construction, such as:

- I. Ignoring God's moral standard
- II. Knowing God's moral standard
- III. Obeying God's moral standard

Notate an illustration by writing its descriptive phrase in parentheses under the corresponding main point or subpoint as in the following example:

- A. Rampant cheating in high school
(Illustration: story of classmates sharing answers on chemistry test)

Type the outline on 8 ½" x 11" white paper (two page limit, including bibliography), single-spaced with double-spacing between major points.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Use five or more reliable references for the bibliography in addition to your Bible. References may include books, Bible study tools, biographies, devotional books, commentaries, Internet sources, magazines, and illustration and speaker quote books.

Note the following sample entries for listing references in the bibliography.

- **Book**
Pickering, Ernest. *Charismatic Confusion*. Schaumburg, Ill: Regular Baptist Press, 2006.
- **Magazine**
Peck, Michael. "Put the Past behind You." *The Baptist Bulletin* (June 2007): 18, 30.

- **Web site**

Talmadge, Eric. "A Running Path to Enlightenment." June 2007. www.chicagotribune.com/news/custom/religion.

TIME LIMIT

Your message is to be eight to ten minutes long. The timekeeper will stand at the end of nine minutes as a one-minute warning and will stand again at the end of ten minutes to signify the end of your speaking time.

PRESENTATION

You may use a copy of your outline when speaking, but points will be deducted for dependence on the outline. You will find it helpful in your preparation to videotape your presentation so you can see and hear areas that need improvement (e.g., posture, gestures, vocal inflection).

INTERVIEW QUESTION

In addition to hearing your prepared message, the judges will ask you to respond to an interview question. You will have one minute to respond to the question. The timekeeper will stand at the end of one minute, signifying that your speaking time has ended. You will be judged on your organization of thought, the suitability of your response to the question, and your use of grammar.

CHURCH MINISTRY

To help you prepare for state competition, you are to present your sermon in your church or in another ministry opportunity approved by your pastor. Prepare a church ministry statement that specifies the date and setting in which you presented your sermon and submit it to the state and national judges as described under **Submissions** on the next page.

CRITERIA

You will be judged in the following areas:

- **Theme**—significant, original, taken from Scripture, not too broad or general, well stated and developed
- **Biblical content**—original message, Biblically accurate, shows investigation and knowledge, supporting material (Plagiarism, close paraphrasing, or substantial borrowing)

of contents or ideas and representing them as your own work will result in disqualification.)

- **Arrangement and organization**—orderly progression of ideas, smooth transitions, balance of intellectual, emotional, and volitional elements
- **Introduction and conclusion**—appropriate length, concise, effective
- **Illustrations**—accurately applied, purposeful, accomplish their intended goal, balance between supporting material and remainder of content
- **Style and articulation**—grammar, variety, correct pronunciation, vocal quality, breath control, variety in volume, rate, and pitch
- **General delivery**—facial expressions, posture, mannerisms, gestures, sincerity, confidence, freedom from dependence on notes
- **Interview response**—organization of thought, suitable to the question, use of grammar

DEDUCTIONS

- **Attire**—You are to wear a coat and tie as described in the TFC guidelines. A three-point deduction will be made for attire that does not follow these guidelines.

- **Required materials**—You are to provide a properly prepared outline with bibliography and your church ministry statement by the deadline given. A three-point deduction will be made for having only some of the materials; a five-point deduction for having none of the materials.
- **Time**—Your sermon is to be eight to ten minutes long. A three-point deduction will be made if you preach less than eight minutes or more than ten minutes.

SUBMISSIONS

- **State competition**—Submit your outline with bibliography and church ministry statement by the deadline specified by the state TFC director.
- **National competition**—Submit your outline with bibliography and church ministry statement to GARBC/TFC by June 2, 2017 (e-mail: tfc@garbc.org; mail: 3715 N. Ventura Drive, Arlington Heights, IL 60004). You may modify your outline for national competition.