I. Mission Statement

The National Christian Forensics and Communications Association (NCFCA) believes that competitive forensics provides a means for homeschooled students to learn and exercise analytical and oratorical skills in addressing life issues from a Biblical worldview in a manner that glorifies God. NCFCA shall facilitate Qualifying Tournaments and host a National Championship to provide this opportunity to homeschooled students.

II. Commitment

NCFCA is committed to academic integrity and ethical behavior in all areas of competitive forensics. Debaters serve as witnesses of Christ and should seek to reflect this at all times. Community judges and listeners should be attracted to both the speaker’s argumentation and to their faith.

Competitors should strive to follow both Luke 6:31 and I Corinthians 10:31 as fundamental standards of behavior. Luke 6:31 reminds us, “Do to others as you would have them do to you” (NIV), and requires debaters to consider if their words or actions violate principles of fairness. In competition, unethical behavior undermines the good faith necessary for productive discourse. I Corinthians 10:31 tells us “…whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” (NASB), and reminds us of our responsibility to represent Christ well in all we do.

The preservation of good faith and trust among competitors and their judges and our mandate to glorify God in all things should guide debaters in their pursuit to protect their integrity and witness.

III. Standards

A. Definition

What is evidence? According to The American Heritage Dictionary, evidence is defined as “the data on which a judgment or conclusion may be based; something that furnishes proof.”

B. Availability
Since evidence must be verifiable, evidence presented in a round should be physically present in the debate room and made available for examination by the judge or the other team, if requested. If evidence presented verbally includes strikeouts, then the complete form of that evidence should also be physically available for examination, if requested.

C. Standard
Fabricated or distorted evidence is prohibited. Fabricating evidence is asserting as fact information that cannot be found in a published source. It is manufacturing articles, quotes or dates. Distorting evidence is misrepresenting evidence in a way that alters the author’s meaning. This would include but is not limited to:

1. Using only a portion of the entire quote so that it is no longer consistent with the author’s position throughout the entire article.

2. Changing words within the quote. This would include changing words like “might” to “will,” or “could” to “is.” This can dramatically alter the author’s intention.

3. Summarizing a quote to save time, but presenting it as a direct quote from the author.

D. Proper Citation
There are many acceptable methods of citation. Since evidence may be questioned, the citation method should, at minimum, be sufficient to allow for verification via public means. Suggested methods of citation for both Team Policy evidence and Lincoln Douglas support are available in the Debate Ethics and Evidence Guidelines Appendix.

IV. Accountability
To facilitate accountability in the area of ethics and responsible handling of evidence, each debater will be asked to sign that they have read, understand and agree to abide by the NCFCA Debate Ethics and Evidence Guidelines at the start of each NCFCA tournament.

Falsification, misrepresentation, and fabrication of evidence and plagiarism are all violations of ethical standards. NCFCA has the right and responsibility to address and adjudicate any possible violations as they come to the attention of league officials.