

STAND TO REASON
INTERACTIVE

Host & Teacher Instructions

AN ADVENTURE IN LEARNING

You are about to lead a group on an exciting adventure in learning with one of the finest training tools available. “Tactics in Defending the Faith” is an easy-to-follow, careful, well-reasoned seminar that has everything you need to help your students master the art of maneuvering in conversations.

You don’t need to have any special teaching or speaking skills to host this class, just a willingness to guide a group through this plug-and-play education experience using the DVD provided and the extensive STR Interactive manual. However, if you do eventually want to teach this course yourself without the DVD, we’ve made special provision to help you make a smooth transition from host to capable instructor (find this material towards the end of this introduction).

With a modest amount of commitment, your students will not only learn this material, but master it so well they could teach someone else. With STR Interactive, faithful participation is all that’s needed. The key to learning is in the nature of this training experience.

STR Interactive allows your group to proceed at a moderate pace with many opportunities for reflection, recall, small group interaction, and other meaningful exercises that help them master one segment at a time. We’ll take you and your group from start to finish in your basic training, guiding you through the material step by step.

In six one-hour sessions you will learn how to...

- *Initiate conversations effortlessly*
- *Stop challengers in their tracks and turn the tables*
- *Graciously and effectively expose faulty thinking*
- *Maneuver through mine fields*
- *Present the truth clearly, cleverly, and persuasively*

This introductory section will introduce you as the event host with basic information about how the course is put together so you can properly guide your students. You will find detailed set-up instructions and guidelines for hosting the class, along with tips to make this a more profitable learning experience for you and your students. Finally, we will coach you how you to dispense with the DVD and train the class yourself not as host, but as instructor.



Stand to Reason exists to equip ambassadors for Christ with knowledge, wisdom, and character to effectively defend classical Christianity and classical Christian values. To further this mission we grant the purchaser permission to duplicate this manual for his students.

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USING THE STR INTERACTIVE MANUAL

The STR Interactive manual is laid out in expanded outline form for ease of use. We want you to be able to readily see the relationships of the ideas to each other. You'll notice the text is punctuated by special sections, usually accompanied by an icon. Each has a unique purpose, as noted below:

AMBASSADOR SKILLS



These segments give tips that increase your tactical skills when using your new knowledge, helping you present the arguments in a winsome and attractive way. This reflects Stand to Reason's vision to build effective Christian ambassadors by training them in the areas of knowledge (an accurately informed mind), tactical wisdom (an artful method), and character (an attractive manner).

STUDENT INTERACTIVE



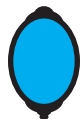
These important segments are designed to take your training experience from the passive stage to the active stage. You will personally interact with the material and with other students in ways that will greatly accelerate your learning. Exercises include discussion, role-playing, recall, directed reflection, class feedback, memory tips, and games and competition.

STR LOGO



This symbol is meant to draw your attention to a key point, a significant detail, or an important clarification in the argument that is important to fix in your mind.

REFLECT A MOMENT



These segments give the student a chance to momentarily step aside from the main point and ponder a related idea. It may be an insight, a clever application, or a reflection designed to make the lesson more practical or meaningful.

PROJECTOR



This symbol in the teacher manual tells you where the next PowerPoint slide is if you are teaching the class with the slide presentation rather than using the DVD.

GOING DEEPER

Here you'll find additional information to study on your own that's not included in the DVD teaching segments. It's added to the STR Interactive manual to give you more detail and expand your understanding. Don't skip these sections.



STUDENT INTERACTIVE SELF-ASSESSMENT

A critical element of mastery learning is recall, the ability to bring to mind the important details you've been learning. These self-assessment quizzes are a powerful tool to help you fix the salient details of the course in your mind so you can recall them quickly when you need them in the future.

DEMONSTRATING MASTERY

At the beginning of each new session you'll find this review of the "Student Interactive Self-Assessment" from the last session. Be sure to do this exercise — either on your own or with the instructor — before each session. It has two purposes. First, by working to recall the main points of the prior session, the ideas will be reinforced in your mind. Second, by reviewing the past material, you'll be prepped for the next session.

ON YOUR OWN

Here you'll find invaluable exercises to do between class sessions designed to immediately get you actively involved using what you've learned. Some require interaction with others in a stimulating way. This step is vitally important for mastery learning.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

We've included some additional articles at the end of each session meant to supplement your learning experience. They expand on concepts or principles dealt with during the sessions.

ENDNOTES

The final section of each session has notes that either document the information taught in the manual or offer added insight. You may want to use the references as a guide to additional resources for further study.

MAXIMIZING YOUR LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Mastery learning involves three basic principles: layering, multiple exposure, and recall.

- *"Layering" exposes you to the material more than once at different levels of complexity. By previewing the material you get the big picture — the larger units of information giving you a clear sense of the basic content and organization of ideas. Then you focus on the smaller packages of thought included under each main concept. You move from general to specific and avoid getting lost in the details.*
- *"Multiple exposure" allows you to engage the same information several times, sometimes from different angles. The interactive exercises, the review, "Food for Thought," "Going Deeper," and the activities you will do on your own serve to reinforce your learning, fixing the instruction more firmly in your mind.*
- *"Recall" involves actively bringing to mind what you've learned without the help of your notes. Recall exercises like "Student Interactive Self-Assessment" and "Demonstrating Mastery" strengthen your long-term memory.*



With these three principles in mind — layering, multiple exposure, and recall — here are a few tips to make your learning experience more profitable. Follow these guidelines to get the most out of your studies:

PREVIEW each session’s material before class.

- *Briefly skim over the main headings and subheadings in your manual to give you an initial overview.*
- *If you have the time read through the details at a slower pace.*

REVIEW immediately, either after the class or the next day.

- *Go back over your STR Interactive manual for each session reading the notes carefully, including the end notes (they have more information than is included in the main body of the notes).*
- *Review your manual every couple of weeks after your training. This is critical to long term retention. You’ll be amazed at how much you’ll remember simply by doing this exercise. Also, the mentoring CD’s (see below) are a superior means of effortless review.*

RECALL the main points and important details.

- *Test yourself with the study questions (“Self-Assessment” and “Demonstrating Mastery”). Keep working on the material until you can answer all the questions accurately and effortlessly.*
- *Using the self-assessment quizzes, test yourself the following week and then periodically as part of your recall exercise.*

PRACTICE what you’re learning by interacting with others.

- *Incorporate the material as quickly as possible into your daily life. The homework in “On Your Own” will help you.*
- *Look for opportunities to graciously trade ideas with others, especially those who may disagree. Such give-and-take sessions are the single most powerful way to become skilled in the use of this new knowledge.*
- *You might even assemble an informal discussion group of like-minded students to go back through the material together, discussing the issues and quizzing each other.*

In general, encourage your class to do all the work. As mentioned earlier, faithful participation is all that’s needed to master this material. If your students simply do the exercises and use the material the way it’s designed, they’ll succeed in learning more and learning faster than they ever thought possible.

HOSTING THE STR INTERACTIVE CLASS

As host of this Stand to Reason Interactive course, you play a vital role in the success of your students’ training experience. You will provide leadership for the group by managing the class: opening and closing each segment, running the DVD, guiding the students through the interactive elements and self-assessment exercises, and promoting a friendly atmosphere of encouragement and safety.

Thoroughly familiarize yourself with the course and how it works before you assemble your group. Go through every session on the DVD and through the manual first. This will acquaint you with the content. You don’t need to master the material before you start, but you should have a clear idea of what each session is meant to accomplish and what is expected of you as facilitator.



GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

“Tactics in Defending the Faith” is divided into six sessions designed to run about an hour each. This format fits conveniently into a Sunday School or classroom schedule.

Of course, if you have more time you can extend the discussion or self-assessment segments giving the students more opportunity for interaction. This always improves learning.

We recommend, when possible, spreading the training out by meeting once a week for six weeks rather than covering everything in a single event. Your students will have time to reflect on the material between sessions and do the homework (“On Your Own”), both very important for learning.

If you choose to hold your seminar all on one day, be sure to schedule more than six hours. The students will need some break time between segments and maybe even time for a short lunch. You may also want to extend your reflective time, discussion, self-assessment, games, etc. Seven hours would be more realistic.

You’ll also notice that even though the course is broken down into 1-hour segments, the DVD material is much shorter than an hour.

CLASS SET-UP

Make proper arrangements for seating, refreshments, etc. If possible, have seminar participants seated at tables in groups of three to six. This accomplishes two things. First, it provides a surface to work on. Second, it makes the interactive segments easier because the students are already seated in groups.

Here’s a basic checklist you can use to adapt to your situation:

- *Teachers manual (for you) and student manual handouts*
- *Extra pens, pencils, and scratch paper for exercises*
- *Refreshments, etc., if desired*
- *Adequate seating*
- *TV and DVD player*
- *Name tags*

PRINTING THE NOTES

- *The CD that comes with your kit has the complete student manual in PDF format. Use your Acrobat reader to open the file and print out a master copy. The PDFs are in color, but for economy, we suggest you set your printer instructions to print the master in “gray scale.”*
- *Use the master to make copies of the manual for your students. As owner of this product, you have license to print as many workbooks as you need for your classes or group study. The students themselves, however, are restricted by copyright and may not copy their materials for distribution. Any distribution of these materials other than to members of your training group would be a violation of copyrights. If students want to make copies they must purchase the complete STR Interactive Kit, “Tactics in Defending the Faith.”*



- *The workbook is comprehensive (about 115 pages), so printing on both sides of the paper will reduce the number of sheets. Add a 3-hole punch so the students can clip them into a binder. A color cover sheet in PDF is also included. This can be printed in color or gray scale.*
- *If you plan to hand all the sessions out at once, you may want to have them bound at your local copy shop. It makes a very serviceable finished manual and is worth the effort.*
- *You might want to pass the cost of the printing and binding on to the students. If you are part of a larger group (e.g., school, church) they often underwrite the cost of the manuals.*

STARTING EACH CLASS

- *Make sure that each student has his own set of notes for each session.*
- *At the first session, encourage the students to be aggressive learners participating in all of the exercises and doing the “On Your Own” assignments between classes. At a later time, have them go over the information in the introductory welcome in the beginning of their manuals.*
- *Each week allow time for sharing “war stories” about experiences the students had while applying the material or insights gained while doing the homework.*
- *For the second through sixth sessions, do the “Demonstrating Mastery” exercise before going into the DVD for that session. This recall and review exercise helps lay the groundwork for the teaching to come. This can be done informally as an oral quiz of the larger group or as a written quiz. You can also mix it up from session to session. Be sure to give the answers as part of your review.*
- *When everything is set, start the DVD.*

STUDENT INTERACTIVE EXERCISES

- *When you come to each Student Interactive, stop the DVD for the allotted time. Keep an eye on the clock and call the group back at the proper time.*
- *If you have more than one hour available for each session, you can be more flexible with these time limits. You may even want to have the students share with the larger group the information they come up with during the interactive segments. This serves to reinforce the information in their minds.*
- *Make sure that the students stay on topic during the interactive exercises. Have them immediately get into the exercise and not make small talk.*
- *Make sure that as you come out of the interactive exercises everyone is paying attention when you return to the DVD. Use the “pause” button if necessary to get everyone’s attention before you start again.*



SELF-ASSESSMENT

- *At the end of the class is a very important review and recall tool called “Self-Assessment.” This is a quiz the students do on their own. Don’t skip this exercise.*
- *You might want the students to do the quiz on a blank sheet of paper instead of marking their manuals. They can then still use their manuals for self-quizzing in the future. The answers are all on the following page in their manuals. If there’s time, go over the answers together.*

ENDING EACH CLASS

- *Challenge the students to do the “On Your Own” exercises between classes. This is very important for their learning.*
- *If the students don’t already have them, hand out the notes for the next session in advance so they can preview the material in preparation for the next meeting.*

MENTORING CDs

Multiple exposure to the material is key to mastery. The more often you hear the information, the more the material will become part of you. That’s why we developed Mentoring CDs. Once you and your students have finished the course you’ll have a way of reviewing it, reaffirming it, and “owning” it.

Mentoring CDs cover the same material as the DVD, but in audio format. They have a conversational, one-on-one feel. As your “personal” tutor, an STR instructor will walk you step-by-step through the material. Listen to these CDs over and over again in your home or in your car, letting the material sink in until it becomes your own.

Think about getting a set for yourself and also encourage each student to purchase a set of their own. Contact STR at 1-800-2-REASON to order your set today.

TEACHING THE STR INTERACTIVE CLASS**THE PROFESSIONAL’S SECRET TO MASTERY LEARNING**

There is one secret we want to pass on to you that guarantees mastery of this material: Teach it to others. We have intentionally developed this STR Interactive course to be easily transferable. Anyone who is a student of the material can become a teacher of the material. There are two ways you can do this.

First, you can give talks in your church, Sunday school, youth group, home-school, or group study in your community simply using the notes in your manual and adapting the material to your unique situation. You can also use what you’ve learned into school reports (be sure to footnote properly), speeches, debates, or letters to your local editor, etc. You can even teach your children.

Second, you can teach this entire course just as is. This copy of “Tactics in Defending the Faith” is already designed for that purpose.



Our ultimate long-term goal is to wean you away from dependence on the DVD, to move you from being the host to being the teacher.

This accomplishes a number of things. First, you'll learn the information much better. Second, you won't be dependent on the technology. Third, we're training you to train others who, eventually, can teach yet another generation. This was Paul's strategy with his own disciple, Timothy:

“And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also” (2 Timothy 2:2).

We've designed Stand to Reason Interactive with this in mind. You can simply dispense with the DVD and teach all the same information yourself. We've made it very easy. In a sense, all you have to do is “follow the bouncing ball.” STR Interactive is a complete plug-and-play package, all designed to make you an effective trainer.

Everything is included:

- *Your instructor's manual has all the content.*
- *The CD has a PowerPoint slide show you can use for visual aids. Hook up your computer to a projector, launch the slide show from the CD, then advance the slides as you move through your teaching.*

Before you teach the course on your own, we suggest you go through an entire class (all six sessions) at least twice as a host using the DVD in the standard way. We also strongly suggest you purchase the Mentoring CDs and listen through them a couple of times so you are thoroughly familiar with the content.

To ease into the teaching experience, you may want to teach one or two of the class sessions you feel strongest in, and let the STR staff do the teaching the rest of the time on DVD.

We are also developing a program to officially certify you as a Stand to Reason Interactive instructor, if you like. This is not required for you to teach the material on your own, of course, but can significantly add to your knowledge and skill. Our goal is to certify 5,000 teachers in various STR Interactive courses in the next five years. Contact us for details.

If you have any suggestions for improvement of this training tool-in organization of material, usability, interactive exercises, graphics, illustrations, clarifying any ambiguity, etc.-please let us know. We are always looking to improve our ability to build ambassadors for Christ. Contact Stand to Reason at 1-800-2-REASON or online at www.str.org.

THE NEXT STEP

“Tactics in Defending the Faith” is just the beginning of what Stand to Reason has to offer you. In addition to an entire curriculum in development in the STR Interactive format Stand to Reason has extensive resources including audio-CDs, books, DVDs, and hundreds of free reports available online at str.org.



STAND TO REASON, THE ORGANIZATION

Stand to Reason is a non-profit, educational organization whose goal is to train Christian ambassadors in the art of careful thinking, and to defend classical Christianity and classical Christian values in a winsome and attractive way.

We focus on imparting knowledge (an accurate message), on wisdom (a skillful, tactical, fair, and artful method), and on character (a warm, inviting, and attractive manner). STR takes the life of the mind seriously, while encouraging a deep, personal devotion to Jesus Christ.

Stand to Reason offers seminars, lectures, publications, and instructional material geared towards helping Christians gain the practical tools they need to make a difference for the Kingdom, giving them both the knowledge and the confidence to be players in the world of ideas. If you'd like more information about STR or how you can have a trained instructor visit your organization, please call us at 1-800-2-REASON.

