



DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION & HUMOROUS INTERPRETATION

Rules:

- a. **SELECTION** -- Selections used in Dramatic or Humorous Interpretation shall be cuttings from a single source from a published printed novel, short story, play, poem or screenplay. One-character selections, or monologues, may be used. No contestant may use the same literary work that s/he used in previous competitive years. No contestant may enter the same selection in two qualifying events. The material may be humorous or dramatic, or combine both tones depending on the selected work. Contestants may not combine two or more pieces of literature. A piece of literature shall be defined as one piece of writing which was written with the intent to be published as one work.
- b. **PUBLICATION** -- All contestants must use published materials. "Published" as used in these rules means materials commercially printed, published, readily available, and nationally distributed. Unpublished material used for introductions and transitions of interpretations shall be the original work of either or both of the contestants. Transitions and other added material must not change the author's intent.
- c. **TIME** -- Interpretations shall be no more than ten (10) minutes in performance including introductory and transitional materials. There is no minimum time limit. Exceeding this time limit by more than 30 seconds shall be penalized by a lowering of one rank.
- d. **PERFORMANCE** -- The speech is most commonly delivered from memory; however, the contestant may also perform from a manuscript.



INFORMATIVE SPEAKING

Rules:

A. **TOPIC** — An informative speech is an original memorized speech designed to explain, define, describe, or illustrate an object, idea, concept or process. The general purpose of the speech is for the audience to gain understanding and/or knowledge of a topic that the student believes important for the audience. Informative speaking avoids predominantly persuasive subjects and techniques. All speeches must have been prepared during the current competitive year.

B. **TIME** — Speeches shall be no longer than ten minutes; there is no minimum time. Speakers exceeding this time limit by more than 30 seconds shall not be ranked first.

C. **QUOTATIONS**— No more than 150 words of the speech may be direct quotations from another speech or writing. Extensive paraphrasing from other sources is prohibited.

D. **VISUAL AIDS**- The use of visual aids is optional. It is important to note that a visual aid is an integral part of the speech content and not an unnecessary gimmick. Visual aids may be two-dimensional and/or three-dimensional, but may not violate local, state or federal laws and/or school policies. The use of animals or any additional people as visual aids is not allowed during the speech. Electronic equipment such as projectors, cell phones, radios, iPads, computers are allowed, but all equipment and any risks associated with using these devices is the speaker's responsibility.

E. **PERFORMANCE** - The speech is most commonly delivered from memory; however, the contestant may also perform from a manuscript.

F. **VIOLATION** – A violation of any of the rules stated above may result in disqualification.



ORATORY

Rules:

- a. TOPIC -- All speeches entered must be the original work of the contestant. Any appropriate subject may be used, but the orator must be truthful. Any non-factual reference, including a personal one, must be so identified. All speeches must have been prepared during the current competitive year. Speeches that have been used in tournaments or service club contests in previous years shall be disqualified; this rule applies to a new speech by a speaker based on the same subject used in a previous year or to any subject used for any original speech by the same contestant during the same or previous years.
- b. TIME -- Speeches shall be no longer than ten minutes; there is no minimum time. Exceeding this time limit by more than 30 seconds shall be penalized by a lowering of one rank.
- c. QUOTATIONS -- No more than 150 words of the speech may be direct quotations from another speech or writing. Extensive paraphrasing from other sources is prohibited.
- d. AIDS -- No notes, visual or audio aids shall be permitted in the contest rounds. The speech is most commonly delivered from memory; however, the contestant may also perform from a manuscript.
- e. PERFORMANCE -- The speech is most commonly delivered from memory; however, the contestant may also perform from a manuscript. No costumes or props shall be permitted.



PROSE

Rules:

a. **SELECTION** -- No contestant may use exactly the same literary work(s) that s/he used in previous competitive years. No contestant may enter the same selection in two qualifying events. Prose expresses thought through language recorded in sentences and paragraphs: fiction (short stories, novels) and non-fiction (articles, essays, journals, biographies). No plays or other dramatic materials, such as a movie script, may be used.

b. **PUBLICATION** -- All contestants must use published materials. "Published" as used in these rules means materials commercially printed, published, readily available, and nationally distributed. Only the original printed source or a photocopy of the original printed source shall be considered adequate proof of publication. Unpublished material used for introductions and transitions of interpretations shall be the original work of the contestant. Transitions and other added material must not change the author's intent.

c. **TIME:** Interpretations shall be no more than ten (10) minutes in performance including introductory and transitional materials. There is no minimum time limit. Exceeding this time limit by more than 30 seconds shall be penalized by a lowering of one rank.

d. **PERFORMANCE** -- The selections must be interpreted from a manuscript in the hand or hands of the contestant. The contestant may interpret the selection by referencing the manuscript or may give the selection solely by memory without reference to the manuscript, but in either event must hold the manuscript in his/her own hand or hands at all times. No costumes or props, with the exception of the intact manuscript, shall be permitted in prose interpretation.



POETRY

Rules:

a. **SELECTION** -- No contestant may use exactly the same themes and/or literary work(s) that s/he used in previous competitive years. No contestant may enter the same selection in two qualifying events. Poetry is writing which expresses ideas, experience, or emotion through the creative arrangement of words according to their sound, their rhythm, their meaning. Poetry may rely on verse and stanza form. Plays or fiction written in verse would be acceptable material in this event. A student may use one long poem or a combination of two or more poems unified by author or theme.

b. **PUBLICATION** -- All contestants must use published materials. "Published" as used in these rules means materials commercially printed, published, readily available, and nationally distributed. Only the original printed source or a photocopy of the original printed source shall be considered adequate proof of publication. Unpublished material used for introductions and transitions of interpretations shall be the original work of the contestant.

c. **TIME:** Interpretations shall be no more than ten (10) minutes in performance including introductory and transitional materials. There is no minimum time limit. Exceeding this time limit by more than 30 seconds shall be penalized by a lowering of one rank.

d. **PERFORMANCE** -- The selections must be interpreted from a manuscript in the hand or hands of the contestant. The contestant may interpret the selection by referencing the manuscript or may give the selection solely by memory without reference to the manuscript, but in either event must hold the manuscript in his/her own hand or hands at all times. No costumes or props, with the exception of the intact manuscript, shall be permitted in poetry interpretation.



STORYTELLING

- a. **SELECTION** -- No contestant may use exactly the same literary work(s) that s/he used in previous competitive years. No contestant may enter the same selection in two qualifying events. A single published, printed story, anecdote, tale, myth, or legend must be retold without notes from memory. An introduction must be included.
- b. **PUBLICATION** -- All contestants must use published materials. "Published" as used in these rules means materials commercially printed, published, readily available, and nationally distributed. Only the original printed source or a photocopy of the original printed source shall be considered adequate proof of publication. Unpublished material used for introductions and transitions of interpretations shall be the original work of the contestant.
- c. **TIME** -- Interpretations shall be no more than five (5) minutes in performance including introductory and transitional materials. There is no minimum time limit. Exceeding this time limit by more than 30 seconds shall be penalized by a lowering of one rank.
- d. **PERFORMANCE** -- The interpretation is most commonly delivered from memory; however, the contestant may also perform from a manuscript. No costumes or props shall be permitted. Gestures, pantomime and characterization may be used in order to enhance the story. A chair, stool or cube may be used during the performance.



DECLAMATION

- a. **SELECTION** -- No contestant may use exactly the same literary work(s) that s/he used in previous competitive years. No contestant may enter the same selection in two qualifying events. The student must present their rendition of a speech that has previously been delivered in public. An introduction must be included.
- b. **PUBLICATION** -- All contestants must use published materials. "Published" as used in these rules means materials commercially printed, published, readily available, and nationally distributed. Speeches from a publicly available website will also be permissible.
- c. **TIME** -- Interpretations shall be no more than ten (10) minutes in performance including introductory and transitional materials. There is no minimum time limit. Exceeding this time limit by more than 30 seconds shall be penalized by a lowering of one rank.
- d. **PERFORMANCE** -- The speech is most commonly delivered from memory; however, the contestant may also perform from a manuscript. No costumes or props shall be permitted. The speaker should present an introduction that states the title, author, and date of the speech they are reciting.



DUO INTERPRETATION

Rules:

a. **SELECTION** -- Selections used in Duo Interpretation shall be cuttings from a single source from a published printed novel, short story, play, poem or screenplay. No contestant may use the same literary work that s/he used in previous competitive years. No contestant may enter the same selection in two qualifying events. The material may be humorous or dramatic, or combine both tones depending on the selected work. Contestants may not combine two or more pieces of literature. A piece of literature shall be defined as one piece of writing which was written with the intent to be published as one work. Each of the two performers may play one or more characters so long as performance responsibility in the cutting remains as balanced as possible. Introductory and/or transitional material may be presented by either or both contestants.

b. **PUBLICATION** -- All contestants must use published materials. "Published" as defined by these rules mean materials for which the coach is able to provide proof of publication using either of the following methods: — Originating in print form (book, photocopy of the book, or a manuscript) — Originating in digital form (a printed copy of an online transcript) Unpublished material used for introductions and transitions shall be the original work of the contestant. Transitions and other added material must not change the author's intent.

c. **TIME** -- Interpretations shall be no more than ten (10) minutes in performance including introductory and transitional materials. There is no minimum time limit. Speakers exceeding this time limit by more than 30 seconds shall not be ranked first

d. **PERFORMANCE** -- The interpretation is most commonly delivered from memory; however, the contestant may also perform from a manuscript. No costumes or props shall be permitted.

e. GUIDELINES FOR RECORDING DUO PERFORMANCES:

Competitors will record performances using available technology, so that each of the performers are in separate rooms, using separate devices, so that they appear in side-by-side windows. It can be recorded repeatedly until competitors are content with the recording. Performances should be routed to coaches who will do a quality check and make sure the videos adhere to the rules and are of the sound, visual, and performance quality deemed sufficient by the coach.

Video editing is not permitted. In the event that video editing is discovered, the competitor will be disqualified. Competitors may not move the camera during the recording. Besides the competitor, no other bodies may be on screen during a recording. Competitors may not use a virtual background. Competitors may choose to wear a headset or cordless earbuds, but they may not be used as a prop.

In the unique circumstance that Duo partners are siblings or living together, in the interest of equity, these partners must also perform in two separate rooms using two separate devices on Zoom.

Recommendations:

Competitors should practice setups for performing to produce the best recording they can. This includes how to set up a section of your home to perform, acquiring an adequately wide lens camera among other technical considerations. Keep in mind that phone cameras/videos/mics are often superior to the default setup on computers. Competitors should use trial and error to find the best recording setup for visuals and sound. Please view this video for helpful hints regarding the recording process:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bk9Yhz6cpnY&feature=youtu.be>



TV COMMERCIAL

- a. PROMPTS -- Contestants will be provided a list of potential topics. They must select one of these items upon which to base the commercial.
- b. TIME -- There is no minimum time limit. The performance should not exceed two minutes. Speakers exceeding this time limit by more than 30 seconds shall not be ranked first
- c. VISUAL AIDS --The student is allowed to use the object serving as the prompt during the performance, however no other props or costumes are allowed.
- d. PERFORMANCE -- The interpretation is most commonly delivered from memory; however, the contestant may also perform with notes. The competitor may use the entire performance space.