

Event Descriptions

Poetry Interpretation- Interpret poetry in a 10-minute program with an original introduction. Convey experiences, ideas, and emotions through language and expression. Traditional and contemporary poetry that are serious, humorous, and thought-provoking can be chosen.

choose poetry to develop one theme or to illustrate the abilities, moods or characteristics of one author. If they choose to develop a theme, the contestants may select the works of one or more authors. In any case, the poetry may be one long selection, a cutting from a longer selection, or a series of short selections. The contestants may include in their presentation such introductory or transitory remarks as are necessary to establish mood and to orient the audience properly. Only poetry from the best of literature should be used. This includes plays. The poetry in the selection must have been copyrighted and published in either electronic or print form and be available to the public. The use of a manuscript is optional. The maximum time of presentation, including the introduction and transitory remarks, is ten minutes"

Storytelling- Children's books are commonly used for this program to tell a thematic story. The time limit for Storytelling is 5 minutes. Selections may include mysteries, heroism, or fairy tales. This year's theme is "Resilience/Perseverance."

"The purpose of Storytelling is to give students the opportunity to develop the art of creating a mood wherein a spoken narrative transports the audience to the time and place of the story being recounted. A storyteller is a narrator - not an actor or actress - and although gestures, pantomime, movement, and characterization are not barred, they must be used with restraint. The focus of the presentation must be on the narrative, with the teller acting as a presenter and not a performer. The teller must clearly grasp and convey the meaning of the tale. The judge should rate highly the mechanics of superior speaking: fluency, vocal variety, articulation, eye contact, gesture. The storyteller may speak standing or seated in a chair or combination of both. No stools are permitted. The chair used in performance must be provided by the host site. No props or visual aids may be used. "When the teller has been successful in bringing the tale to life, the telling will seem entirely natural, almost effortless".

a. Single published, printed story, anecdote, tale, myth or legend must be retold without the use of props.

b. The maximum time is five minutes, but the story may be briefer without penalty. An introduction must be included within the five-minute time limit

c. The student may not tell a story he/she used in previous years of competition in Storytelling within district or region contests or the State Festival.

d. Gestures, pantomime, and characterization may be used with restraint but the focus must be on the Narrative.

*e. A theme shall be chosen by the Speech Advisory Committee annually. The theme for the 2025-2026 school year shall be – **YOUR CHOICE!***

Non-Original Oratory- Consists of interpreting a selection from a single selection of speeches, lectures, and essays. This can be humorous, serious, or both.

"This contest event consists of interpreting a selection from a single source. The contest event shall include selections such as orations, addresses, lectures and essays that are conducive to oratorical interpretation. (No cuttings from poems, plays or other works of fiction are allowed in this contest event.) The Non-Original Oration can be serious, humorous or a mixture of serious and humorous sentiments. Non-Original Oratory has been exempted from the "copyrighted and published" regulation because oratory, in its origin, is basically an oral medium of communication. However, selections shall not be the original work of the contestant. The maximum time of presentation, including the introduction, is ten minutes."

Readers Theater- A group of three to six students interpretively present literature.

10 -minute time limit.

1. create a scripted ensemble performance that focuses on the use of interpretative skills to present prose, poetry and/or drama without the aid of costumes, make-up, set or props.
2. Selections/Materials. Materials used may include prose, verse, drama, speeches, diaries, letters, essays, original compositions, etc. NOTE: A school may not use any of the same literary materials in two consecutive years, but other literature from the same "selection"/source may be used.
3. Time Limits. The time limit for a Readers Theatre performance including the introduction is ten minutes.
4. Preparation and Presentation.
 - A. Manuscripts are optional. They may be held and/or placed on music stands. If manuscripts are used, members of the group must carry their manuscript as they move from place to place during the performance.
 - B. Costumes, make-up, and props are prohibited, but it is allowable for a school to have the participants dress in a uniform manner.

Dramatic Interpretation, contrary to its name, is not all about drama. While dramatic elements are key aspects of the event, melodramatic, or overly-sad selections are not ideal choices for performance. DI lacks props, costuming, sets, and other luxuries seen in various forms of performance art. There is a set time limit of ten minutes, with a thirty second grace period. Students who choose to compete in Dramatic Interpretation should focus on suspending the disbelief of the audience by portraying a realistic, emotional journey of a character(s). The performance should connect to the audience. Students who do Dramatic Interpretation may perform selections on topics of serious social subject matter such as coping with terminal illness; significant historical situations, events, and figures; as well as racial and gender discrimination, suppression, and oppression. Students should select pieces that are appropriate for them. Considerations for selecting a DI topic should include the student's age, maturity, and school standards.

Duo Interpretation. The event everyone wants to do with a best friend. In truth, while the appeal of Duo might be performing with a friend, this approach may not be best. Duo is about balance. Partners need to compliment one another stylistically, have a similar skill set and work ethic. Chemistry is an important element of Duo, but chemistry outside of a practice/performance setting does not always translate to chemistry when practicing or performing at a tournament. Be sure to share your goals with your coach as they help you through the process of getting started in Duo. Duo is an event that can be dramatic, comedic, or a combination of the two. With a ten minute time cap, and a requirement of an off-stage focus, Duo is one of the most unique forms of performance. The main objective is to maintain a sense of balance between performers that focuses on the relationship(s) between the characters they create.

Humorous Interpretation, as its name indicates, is humorous. Competitors often use multi-character selections to tell relatable stories using humor as a device to connect with the audience. Think about your favorite comedian's latest stand up routine, or something funny that recently happened. Ask yourself why it's funny. Then ask yourself if that joke would be funny to, say, your mom, or great-great Uncle Joe. Humor is a complex human quirk. Each individual's sense of humor is unique. However, other aspects of humor are more universal in nature. So, when choosing an HI, it is imperative to consider not only the humorous elements of the selection, but also to keep in mind how the story itself will appeal to the audience. Not everyone will laugh at the same joke, but if a character's plight is relatable, the audience will identify with him or her.

Program Oral Interpretation relies on the performer's ability to portray a wide range of characters and literature all held together under a common theme. Each program must contain at least two of the three genres and students are encouraged to include all three. There is a set time limit of ten minutes, with a thirty second grace period. Students who choose to compete in POI should focus on making an interesting argument that is supported in different ways by each piece of literature they select.

Original Oratory is a speech written by the student with the intent to inform or persuade the audience on a topic of significance. Oratory gives students the unique opportunity to showcase their voice and passion for their topic. An Oratory is not simply an essay about the topic—it is a well researched and organized presentation with evidence, logic, emotional appeals, and sometimes humor to convey a message. Topics may be of a value orientation and affect people at a personal level, such as avoiding peer pressure, or they can be more of a policy orientation and ask an audience to enact particular policies or solve societal problems.

United States Extemporaneous Speaking, typically called US Extemp, is a speech on current events in the United States with limited preparation time. A student's understanding of important political, economic, and cultural issues is assessed along with critical thinking and analytical skills. Students report to a draw room (often referred to as Extemp prep) where all of the Extempers gather at tables, set out their files, and await their turn to draw topics. Students may access research brought with them to the tournament during the 30-minute preparation period. Some tournaments, including the NSDA National Tournament, will permit students to use the internet to research during preparation time. When prep time is up, the student reports to the competition room to deliver a 7 minute speech. Students have a lot to do in 30 minutes—they must select a question, review research, outline arguments with supporting materials, and practice at least part of the speech before time expires. Many tournaments prohibit the consultation of notes during the speech in which case speech structure and evidence need to be memorized during prep time as well.

International Extemporaneous Speaking, typically called International Extemp, is a speech on current International events with limited preparation time. A student's understanding of important political, economic, and cultural issues is assessed along with critical thinking and analytical skills. Students report to a draw room (often referred to as Extemp prep) where all of the Extempers gather at tables, set out their files, and await their turn to draw topics. Students may access research brought with them to the tournament during the 30-minute preparation period. Some tournaments, including the NSDA National Tournament, will permit students to use the internet to research during preparation time. When prep time is up, the student reports to the competition room to deliver a 7 minute speech. Students have a lot to do in 30 minutes—they must select a question, review research, outline arguments with supporting materials, and practice at least part of the speech before time expires. Many tournaments prohibit the consultation of notes during the speech in which case speech structure and evidence need to be memorized during prep time as well.

Impromptu is a public speaking event where students have seven minutes to select a topic, brainstorm their ideas, outline the speech, and finally, deliver the speech. The speech is given without notes and uses an introduction, body, and conclusion. The speech can be light-hearted or serious. The speech can be based upon prompts that range from nursery rhymes, current events, celebrities, organizations, and more.

In an Impromptu round the speaker draws three prompts from an envelope. After drawing the three prompts, the student must select one and begin brainstorming their ideas for the speech. In total, a student has seven minutes. This seven minutes may be divided up by the student however they see fit. For instance, they could brainstorm and outline their ideas for three minutes and then deliver a four-minute speech; or they could brainstorm and outline for one minute and speak for six minutes. There is no minimum amount of time required for brainstorming and no minimum amount of time for speaking.

Readers Theatre is an event in which a group of three to six students interpretively present literature. Readers Theatre encourages the students to create a scripted ensemble performance that focuses on the use of interpretative skills to present prose, poetry and/or drama without the aid of costumes, make-up, set or props. 2. *Selections/Materials.* Materials used may include prose, verse, drama, speeches, diaries, letters, essays, original compositions, etc. NOTE: A school may not use any of the same literary materials in two consecutive years, but other literature from the same "selection"/source may be used. 3. *Time Limits.* The time limit for a Readers Theatre performance including the introduction is ten minutes. 4. *Preparation and Presentation.* A. Manuscripts are optional. They may be held and/or placed on music stands. If manuscripts are used, members of the group must carry their manuscript as they move from place to place during the performance. Revised 7/19 Oral Interp - 9 B. Costumes, make-up, and props are prohibited, but it is allowable for a school to have the participants dress in a uniform manner. C. Performers may use either a uniform set of stools (between 24" and 30" high, having no back and unable to swivel) or a set of straight chairs. A school SHALL NOT use a combination of stools and chairs. The maximum number of chairs or stools allowed shall be no greater than the number of performers in the group. Schools are responsible for providing their own stools or chairs. NOTE: The performers cannot stand or kneel on the chairs or stools. The chairs or stools are only to be used for sitting. D. Limited stage movement shall be allowed. The narrator may move about and the compositional groupings may change. E. The performers may react to each other's verbal and/or non-verbal expressions, but they may not touch each other. F. A narrated introduction or transitional material within the cutting may be given by one or more members. Only during the presentation of the introduction and/or original transitional material may physical or eye contact be made with the other members of the group. The narrated introduction shall be included in the time limit for the selection.