

Open Interpretation

Description: *In Open Interpretation the competitor creates an original rendition from a selection or selections of prose or poetry (including unpublished work(s) which captivates and moves the audience.*

Goal: *To select and analyze literature, then bring it to life through the creative use of voice, movement, and facial expression.*

Open Interpretation Preparation Rules:

1. Interpretive literature may come from a wide variety of sources including original work, unpublished work by others, or traditional published literature. See **Stoa Publication Guidelines**.
2. Media transcripts are not permitted. See **Stoa Publication Guidelines**.
3. The competitor may weave multiple selections together around a common theme.
4. There is no limit to the number of words added by the competitor or any restriction on how those words are used.
5. Dialogue from one character may be given to another character.
6. A competitor may use an interpretive selection in multiple leagues during any given competitive season, but once the competitor uses a selection in any competition in any venue, that competitor may not reuse any part of it in subsequent years of competition. Competitors may appeal in special situations.
7. The selection may be entered in only one category per tournament (e.g., either Open or Dramatic but not both). The competitor may place the selection in a different category in subsequent tournaments.
8. The competitor may enter only one interpretive selection per category.
9. The competitor must submit a photocopy of the original source and a typed hard copy of the script along with the completed Interpretive Speech Script Submission Form at tournament registration. The photocopy must have all the words used highlighted.

Open Interpretation Presentation Rules:

1. The author(s) and title(s) of the presentation must be introduced near the beginning of the piece even if it is an original piece written by the competitor. Adaptations must include the name of the original author as well as the names of all other contributing authors. The competitor will receive a one (1) rank penalty for failure to cite the source(s).
2. The competitor must compete in tournament attire.
3. No audio or visual aids or props may be used.
4. Only feet are permitted to touch the floor at any time.
5. Gratuitous vulgarity is strictly prohibited.
6. This is primarily a speech event but some singing and dancing are permitted as appropriate to the piece.
7. The script must be memorized. No written scripts or notes may be referred to in competition rounds. The competitor will receive a two (2) rank penalty for use of a written script or notes in competition.
8. The timekeeper will start the digital timepiece when the competitor begins and will stop the digital timepiece when the competitor finishes. No hand signals will be given.
9. Maximum speaking time is ten (10) minutes.
10. Stoa expects competitors to complete presentations within the event time, except for extenuating circumstances (eg: laughter, timing issues, etc.).
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Speaking time – ten (10) minutes. No minimum time.