

**Ultimately, it is up to each individual family to choose appropriate material that upholds the foundational values of Stoa and that protects the integrity of our competition. The Stoa Board trusts the membership to approach and conduct themselves on this matter in a God-honoring spirit and manner.**

Stoa desires script approval to be simple and objective. The texts should be in the public domain, accessed universally by any user and retrievable upon request. The site and literary text needs to be verifiable and have a **date of publication**. *A copyright date does not satisfy this requirement.*

### **Unacceptable Sources:**

- Blogs from any source
- Personal professional websites or social media pages (those where writers have their own sites and can place their words for sale or view)
- Unmarked/casual sites where individuals can easily post or delete their work for performance or criticism
- Media transcripts - These are scripts or script selections, which have been transcribed from a live or recorded performance (including theater, movies, television/radio broadcasts, webcasts, internet streaming, YouTube, etc.). Ideas may be obtained from these venues but copying verbatim or copy of blocking is not permitted.

**The following guidelines are provided to Stoa families to help guide them in the search for and use of “pieces” in Stoa interpretive speeches.**

**Acceptable Sources (excluding Open Interp) will have a publication date.** To ensure your piece is approved for NITOC, it is recommended that you look for a piece that has *a permanent number assigned from a nationally or scholastically recognized registry unless the piece was written before 1970.*<sup>1</sup>

- “LCCN” or “Library of Congress Control Number”
  - An alphanumeric system which groups books by subject categories, or classes.
  - ID found on the pages near the copyright notice.
- "ISBN" or "International Standard Book Number"
  - ISBN is a number, not a bar code.
  - Number found on the pages near the copyright notice.
- “ISSN” or “International Standard Serial Number”
  - ISSN is an 8-digit code used to identify newspapers, journals, magazines and periodicals of all kinds and on all media—print and electronic.
  - ISSN should be located:
    - preferably, in the upper right corner of the cover; or
    - on the pages near the copyright notice.
  - For a publication in electronic media, the ISSN should be shown:
    - on the homepage or on the main menu, if it is an online publication,
    - on any part visible to the naked eye if the publication is on a physical medium.
- “DOI” or “Digital Object Identifier”
  - DOI is a unique alphanumeric string assigned by the International DOI Foundation to identify content and provide a persistent link to its location on the Internet.
  - All DOI numbers begin with a *10* and contain a prefix and a suffix separated by a slash.
  - DOI is typically located:
    - on the first page of the electronic journal article, near the copyright notice.
    - may also be found on the database landing page for the article.

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<sup>1</sup>ISBN numbering system was created in 1970