

Open Interpretation

Description: *Open Interpretation selections may be in the whole range from dramatic to humorous genres, including narrative storytelling, single voice monologues, thematic compilations, or self-written pieces.*

Goal: *To understand the values & techniques inherent in interpreting stories for the education and enjoyment of the audience 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 Interpretive literature may come from a wide variety of sources including original work, unpublished work by others, or traditional published literature.
2. Media transcripts are not permitted. See **Stoa Publication Guidelines**.
3. The literature should be edited to fit the time limit.
4. The competitor may weave multiple sources together around a common theme.
5. There is no limit to the number of words added by the competitor or any restriction on how those words are used.
6. Dialogue from one character may be given to another character.
7. A competitor may use an interpretive selection in multiple leagues during any given competitive season. The selection may be entered in only one event per tournament (e.g., either Dramatic or Open but not both).
8. Once the competitor uses a selection in any competition in any venue, that competitor may not reuse any part of the selection in subsequent years of competition.
9. The competitor may enter only one interpretive selection per event.
10. The competitor must provide a script and scanned pages used from original source(s) at each tournament. See **Script Submission Form**. Note: Electronic Script Submission is required at NITOC.

Open Interpretation Presentation Rules:

1. The competitor will receive a one (1) rank penalty for failure to cite the source(s). 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.
2. No audio or visual aids or props may be used.
3. Only feet are permitted to touch the floor at any time.
4. Gratuitous vulgarity is strictly prohibited.
5. This is a speech event but some singing and dancing are permitted as appropriate to the piece.
6. The script must be memorized and delivered verbatim. The competitor will receive a two (2) rank penalty for use of a written script or notes in competition.
7. Timepiece must be **facing toward the competitor** and **counting up**. Local tournaments may still choose to give hand signals every minute until six (6) minutes have elapsed.
8. Maximum speaking time is six (6) minutes. Stoa expects competitors to complete presentations within the event time, except for extenuating circumstances (e.g.: laughter, timing issues, etc.). There is no minimum time limit.
9. Competitors will receive a one (1) rank penalty for going over time by 15 seconds or more.

Speaking time – six (6) minutes. No minimum time.