

# Dramatic Interpretation Rules

**Description:** *The Dramatic Interpretation is an original rendition by the competitor of a relatable story from a single published work of literature with a focus on plot and character development which captivates and moves the audience.*

**Goal:** *To select and analyze dramatic literature, then bring it to life through the creative use of voice, movement, and facial expression. Competitors should portray a realistic, varied emotional journey of a character(s). While dramatic elements are key aspects of the event, the selections do not need to be tragic or melodramatic.*

## Dramatic Interpretation Preparation Rules:

1. Interpretive literature may come from a variety of genres including plays, prose, or poetry, but the selection must be from a single **published** work, and cannot be authored or self-published by the competitor or a previous competitor. The selection must be in compliance with the **Stoa Publication Guidelines**.
2. The following unpublished works are not permitted: blogs and media transcripts (e.g., movie scripts and audio or video recordings not published in written form by the owner). See the **Stoa Publication Guidelines**.
3. The competitor must create a completely original interpretation of literature. Competitors may not copy the added words, cutting and/or blocking of a previous speech and/or video. See the **Stoa Plagiarism Policy**.
4. The literature may be edited to fit the time limit.
5. A maximum of 150 words may be added.
  - a. Added words may be used to create introductions, conclusions, and transitions between the author's words, phrases, and/or ideas. Joining together disconnected words and/or phrases from the source to create new thoughts or ideas is counted as added words.
  - b. The competitor may quote material external to the published work in the introduction only and must cite the source verbally. External material (other sources, book covers, reviews, prefaces, etc.) must be counted as part of the 150 added words. See the **Speech Citations Help Page**.
  - c. When identifying the source material, the following are not considered added words: the title, the author(s), and the words "by" and "and".
  - d. Changes to pronouns, verb tenses, and character names are allowed and not counted as added words.
  - e. Words from the original source may be repeated without being counted as added words.
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 (book, play, short story, etc.) in any competition in any venue, that competitor may not reuse any part of the published work in subsequent years of competition. The Bible is an exception to this rule.
9. The competitor may enter only one interpretive selection per event.
10. The competitor must provide a script and scanned/photocopied pages used from the original source at each tournament. The title page, copyright page, and original source pages must be from the same source. See the **Script Submission Form**.  
Note: Electronic Script Submission is required at NITOC.

## Dramatic Interpretation Presentation Rules:

1. The competitor must identify the title and author near the beginning of the piece. The competitor will receive a one (1) rank penalty for failure to cite the source. See the **Speech Citations Help Page**.
2. Competitors may not receive or access any verbal, non-verbal, electronic, and/or written communication, nor any form of visual assistance during the delivery of the speech.
3. No props, audio, or visual aids may be used.
4. Only feet are permitted to touch the floor at any time.
5. Gratuitous vulgarity is strictly prohibited.
6. This is a speech event, but some singing and dancing are permitted as appropriate to the piece.
7. **The speech must be memorized and delivered as written in the script.** The competitor will receive a two (2) rank penalty for the use of a written script or notes in competition.
8. The timepiece must be **facing toward the competitor and counting up**.
9. The maximum speaking time is ten (10) minutes. There is no minimum time limit.
10. Competitors will receive a one (1) rank penalty for going over time by 15 seconds or more.

### Speaking Time – Ten (10) Minutes