

# Open Interpretation Rules

**Description:** *The Open Interpretation is an original rendition by the competitor from published or unpublished literature and/or self-written work. The presentation may range from dramatic to humorous genres, and it may include narrative storytelling, single voice monologues, or thematic compilations.*

**Goal:** *To select and analyze written work(s), then bring 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literature may come from a wide variety of sources including original works by the competitor, published works, and/or unpublished works by others.
2. The following unpublished works are not permitted: blogs and media transcripts (i.e., movie scripts and audio or video recordings that are not published in written form by the owner).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 cutting and/or blocking of a previous speech and/or video. See the **Stoa Plagiarism Policy**.
4. The literature should be edited to fit the time limit.
5. The competitor may weave multiple sources together around a common theme.
6. There is no limit to the number of words added by the competitor or any restriction on how those words are used.
7. Dialogue from one character may be given to another character.
8. 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).
9. 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.
10. The competitor may enter only one interpretive selection per event.
11. The competitor must provide a script and scanned/photocopied pages used from the original source(s) at each tournament. See the **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. Competitors may not receive or access any verbal, non-verbal, electronic, and/or written communication, nor any form of visual assistance during 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 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 six (6) minutes, including any audience reaction. 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 – Six (6) Minutes