



JUDGE WORKSHEET

Thematic Interpretation

Judge: _____

Room: _____ Round: _____

Description of Event

Thematic Interpretation is an interpretive speech event in which a speaker presents literature from more than one genre, woven together around a single theme of the speaker's choice. The goal is to develop the intellectual, emotional and artistic aspects of the different selections of literature in support of a single theme. Speeches must contain at least three separate selections/excerpts from different genres of published works. The speaker should briefly address the merit of the literature in an introduction. The use of a forensic notebook portrays the author's words.

Guidelines

- Time limit is 10 minutes; overtime grace period of 15 seconds; no minimum time.
- The presenter must include at least three different literary selections in developing the chosen theme.
- Selections may be taken from any genre, including, but not limited to plays, poems, novels, short stories, children's literature, song lyrics, great speeches, biographies, the Bible, or essays. (No movie, radio, or television scripts are allowed). Humor is allowed.
- Care must be taken to accurately portray the intent if the various authors.
- Physical movement should be limited and suggested rather than exaggerated, and confined to front and center of the presentation space.
- Dancing is prohibited; only feet are permitted to touch the floor at any time.
- Speakers are to maintain off-stage focus if in character, but may make eye contact with the audience during any introductory words, transitions, or narrative sections.
- Very brief singing that is suggested by or included in the literature may be utilized.
- No props, costumes, or audiovisuals may be used.
- The forensic notebook may be used creatively.
- If a teaser (lines from a selection) is used as an opener, the forensic notebook should be open. It is to be closed for introductions (citing title and author and optional background information), and open for the body of the presentation.
- A piece that is deemed unsuitable or offensive should be brought to the attention of the Tournament Director.
- VIOLATIONS:
 - Failure to cite titles and authors requires a 1-rank penalty.
 - Exceeding the time limit (starting at 10 minutes 16 seconds) requires a 1-rank penalty.

Judge Worksheet Instructions

1. Record each speaker's theme as they present it.
2. When the round is over, rank speakers using the point totals on the ballots; speakers may have the same point values but they must still be ranked. (For example, if two speakers have 26 points, choose a 1st and 2nd rank). 1st place is noted by "1", 2nd place "2", etc. Place these rankings in column 1.
3. Record violations, if any (see above), in column 2. If no violations occurred, go to step 5.
4. Add columns 1 and 2 and record the totals in column 3.
5. In column 4, record the final rank. There can be no ties in rankings, so break ties by advancing the participant with no or fewer violations first. (Example: if two are tied for 3rd place, advance the speaker with no violations to 3rd place and the other speaker *with a violation* to 4th place.)
6. IMPORTANT step: after filling out column 4, **go back to the ballots** and based upon this worksheet, circle the final rank for each speaker.

Name of speaker (in planned order)	Topic of speech	Column 1: Original rank	Column 2: Violations, if any	Column 3: Add columns 1 & 2	Column 4: Final Rank Break any ties

