



CCofSE
Official Description of Open Interpretation

WHAT ARE "INTERPRETATION" SPEECH EVENTS?

Interpretive speech events are events in which the competitors choose a selection (or selections) of literature and creatively interpret them, from memory, within a given time limit.

WHAT IS OPEN INTERPRETATION?

Open Interpretation is an interpretive speech event in which a competitor seeks to interpret and develop the intellectual, emotional, and artistic aspects of a selection(s) of literature for a uniquely original presentation.

LITERATURE

Literature may be chosen from any genre, including, but not limited to plays, poems, novels, short stories, children's literature, song lyrics, great speeches, biographies, the Bible, essays, or self-written work. However, blogs or media transcriptions from movies, TV, or video or audio recordings are not allowed. Consideration will be given to the literary merit of the selections.

NATURE OF SELECTIONS

Literature selections may be dramatic or humorous in nature. The humor or dramatic impact of the presentation must come from the author's words and not solely from the creativity of the competitor. Vulgarity, profanity, and racial slurs are prohibited.

PRESENTATION STRUCTURE

The presentation may include narrative storytelling, single voice monologues, or thematic compilations. Introductory, explanatory, and transitional material must be in the speaker's own words. Titles and authors should be clearly communicated within an opening introduction prior to selection. There is a penalty for neglecting to cite titles and authors. Judges should hear a clear and complete development of purpose from the beginning to the end of the speech. Scoring and ranking will be based on the skill of interpretation, and how effectively the speech is developed and communicated.

TIME LIMIT

Time begins when the speaker begins speaking and ends when the speaker has finished speaking. Maximum speech length for junior varsity competitors is 6 minutes total including introductions and transitions, with a 15- second overtime grace period. Speakers are encouraged to aim to complete their presentation in about 5 minutes 30 seconds. There is no minimum time requirement. One rank penalty for overtime exceeding 15 seconds.



GUIDELINES

- The presentation must be confined to the front and center of the presentation space.
- Movement should be limited and suggested rather than exaggerated.
- This is a literary interpretation and NOT a theatrical performance.
- The presenter may present one or more characters.
- Presenters are to maintain an off-stage focus while in character (and not make eye contact with the judges and audience), except during narrative parts of the piece and original words in the introduction and transitions, during which they may make eye contact with the judges and audience.
- Only feet are permitted to touch the floor at any time.
- Very brief singing and dancing which is suggested by or included in the literature may be utilized to enhance the emotional impact of the piece.
- No props, costumes, or audiovisuals may be used.

