Oral Interpretation of Prose or Poetry (3 to 5 minutes) – Read

Prose or Poetry
Read a selection(s) of literature in a creative manner that conveys the impression that the author intended. Selections should be taken from established, published authors. Readings range from **3 to 5 minutes**. Poetry readers may choose one long poem or a program of several shorter pieces. Interpretation of prose and poetry is done with a manuscript. **It requires reading, not acting.** Do, however, develop eye contact, appropriate facial expressions, and effective vocal variety to capture the mood and meaning. The participant should strive for a unique and impressionable interpretation.

**Judging Checklist**

1. Choice of selection
2. General enthusiasm and sincerity
3. Appropriate introduction
4. Use of text as a tool, not a crutch
5. Good eye contact with everyone in the room
6. Effective communication of ideas and feelings to the listeners
7. Appropriate gestures and facial expressions
8. Correct pronunciation and clear enunciation
9. Overall effectiveness of interpretation
10. Vocal variety

Oral Interpretation of Dramatic Literature (4 to 8 minutes) – Memorized

Drama
Present a 4 to 8 minute memorized scene from dramatic literature with no script, props, or costumes. Portray the situation without a narrator intervening between the action and the audience. Dramatic literature includes monologues, soliloquies, film scripts, and scenes from plays of published authors. After a brief introduction to set the scene and introduce the characters, use appropriate vocal variety, gestures, facial expressions, and movement to capture the emotions, attitudes, and actions of the characters. Performance should reinforce, not overwhelm, the language of the piece.

**Judging Checklist**

1. Choice of selection
2. General enthusiasm and sincerity
3. Appropriate introduction
4. Appropriate gestures, facial expressions and movements
5. Character distinction (when more than one character)
6. Correct pronunciation and clear enunciation
7. Vocal variety
8. Effective communication of ideas and feelings to the listeners
9. Overall effectiveness of the presentation
**Duo Dramatic Interpretation (up to 10 minutes) - Memorized**

**Duo Drama**
This event is a two-person category. It has many of the same guidelines as Dramatic Interpretation, but also has some different requirements. In Duo Drama participants may not establish direct eye contact with each other (except during transitions between scenes.) They must focus on points during dialogue or at the audience during narration. The selection should contain characters of reasonable depth and development. Characterization should be maintained throughout (except during the introduction) and must be distinct from narration. Physical movement should be restrained. The characters should react to each other’s verbal and non-verbal expression, but they may not touch. The performers may assume bodily stances appropriate to the characters being portrayed and may pivot only to suggest exits and entrances. They must remain standing.

**Judging Checklist**

1. Choice of selection
2. General enthusiasm and sincerity
3. Appropriate introduction
4. Appropriate gestures, facial expressions and movements
5. Character distinction (when more than one character)
6. Correct pronunciation and clear enunciation
7. Vocal variety
8. Effective communication of ideas and feelings to the listeners
9. Overall effectiveness of the presentation

**Original Oratory (6 to 8 minutes) – Memorized**

**Oratory**
Memorize a 6 to 8 minute original written speech, delivered without notes. The speech should be persuasive. It should try to change attitudes and/or advocate action. Limit use of quotations to a maximum of 150 words and cite sources. Use of manuscript or notes will not eliminate contestants but will detract from the overall score. Creative effort of the participants in handling their subject intelligently will be considered along with their skill in delivery.

**Judging Checklist**

1. Significant topic of controversial nature
2. Clear and logical organization
3. Original and intelligent handling of the topic
4. Genuine interest on the part of the speaker
5. Audience’s interest aroused, attitudes changed, or action proposed
6. Few quotations used to support the speaker’s own thoughts
7. Memorized...no script
8. Vocal variety
9. Appropriate gestures and movement
10. Direct and poised delivery and clear articulation
11. Eye contact with everyone in the room
**Extemporaneous Speaking (5 to 7 minutes) -- Impromptu with notes**

**Extemp**
Speak for 5 to 7 minutes on a controversial topic that has been in the local, state, national, or international news over the last six months. Draw three topics and choose one to prepare within thirty minutes. You may use the library or bring a collection of information. Internet access is common, but not guaranteed. Have a clear focus and a persuasive presentation. Be well organized. Confine remarks to the topic and do not shift to related ideas. You may have notes (limited to one index card) for the delivery of the speech. The judge will collect your topic slip before you start your speech.

**Judging Checklist**
1. Knowledge of subject
2. Adherence to subject
3. Clarity and logic of the presentation
4. Adequate, but not excessive, support material
5. Appropriate gestures and movement
6. Vocal variety
7. Correct pronunciation and clear articulation
8. Eye contact with everyone in the room
9. Directed and poised delivery

**Impromptu Speaking -- (2 to 3 minutes)**

**Impromptu**
Speak for 2 to 3 minutes on a topic without notes. Draw 3 topics each round and prepare 1 topic during a 1 minute prep time. The topics may be light or serious and on a single word, phrase, quotation, or question. You will be judged on the clarity of thinking, specifics, creativity, flow, organization, diction, and vocal variety.

**Judging Checklist**
1. Speaker uses no notes
2. Preparation time of one minute
3. Clear and logical organization
4. Original and intelligent handling of topic
5. Effective eye contact with everyone in the room
6. Vocal variety
7. Correct pronunciation
8. Clear articulation
9. Effective communication of ideas
Radio Announcing – (3 minutes EXACTLY!)

Radio
Deliver a 3 minute radio broadcast. Include a 30-second commercial, local and national or international news, weather, and sports. You have 30 minute prep time during which you may use wire copy or newspapers to gather your materials. You may use the same commercial each round but must create the rest of the radio spot anew. You MUST surrender all copy, except commercials, after each round. Under NO circumstances may you bring personal copy to the tournament, other than the commercial. Students select and arrange their material, rearranging and rewording them to suit their purposes. Strict adherence to the time limit is essential and is important in judging. Other factors include overall coherency, flow, sales effectiveness, articulation, pronunciation, personality and vocal variety.

Judging Checklist

1. News, weather, sports, 30-second commercial all included
2. Smooth transition from one item to another
3. Smooth phrasing and delivery
4. Vocal variety
5. Projection of personality
6. Sales effectiveness
7. Correct pronunciation and clear articulation
8. Sincere delivery
9. Ideal performance is 3 minutes exactly...keep the time accurately!