



The Christian School Speech & Debate League

A Ministry of the Institute for Principle Studies

OFFICIAL VIRTUAL OPEN INTERPRETATION SPEECH RULES

I. Format

The Open Interpretation is an original rendition by the competitor from published or unpublished literature and/or self-written work.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, or thematic compilations.

II. Goal

To select and analyze written work(s), then bring them to life through the creative use of voice, movement, and facial expression.

III. Preparation Rules

- A. Interpretive literature may come from a wide variety of sources including original works by the competitor, published works, and/ or unpublished works by others.
- B. The following unpublished works are not permitted: blogs and media scripts (i.e., movie scripts and audio or video recordings that are not published in written form by the owner).
- C. 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.
- D. The literature should be edited to fit the time limit.
- E. The competitor may weave multiple sources together around a common theme.
- F. There is no limit to the number of words added by the competitor or any restriction on how those words are used.
- G. Dialogue from one character may be given to another character.
- H. Once the competitor uses a selection (book, play, short story, etc.) in any competition season, the published work may not be used in any subsequent years of competition. The Bible is an exception to the rule.

IV. Presentation Rules

- A. The competitor **MUST** 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.
- B. Competitors may not receive or access any verbal, non-verbal, electronic, and/or written communication, nor any form of visual assistance during delivery of speech.
- C. No props, audio or visual aids may be used.
- D. Only feet are permitted to touch the floor at any time.
- E. Gratuitous vulgarity is strictly prohibited.

- F. This is a speech event, but some singing and dancing are permitted as appropriate to the piece.
- G. The speech must be memorized and delivered as written.
- H. The timepiece must be **facing toward the competitor** and **counting up**.
- I. The maximum speaking time is six (6) minutes, including any audience reaction. There is no minimum time limit.

IV. Dress Code

- A. Competitors must dress both modestly and business professionally. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - 1. Gentlemen should wear either suits, or sport coats with slacks; collared shirts and ties; and dress shoes.
 - 2. Ladies should wear dresses, skirts, or suits; tops with a modest neck line; and dress shoes. Skirt lengths should cover the knees when standing.

V. Disciplinary Action

In the event that there is an infraction of the rules, the tournament director should be notified. The tournament director may review the case and make a decision based on the circumstances. Disciplinary options may include a warning, automatically being placed last in the room in the round where the infraction occurred, or removal from the tournament.