

Dramatic Interpretation Rules

Description: *In Dramatic Interpretation the competitor creates an original rendition of a relatable story from a single published work of literature with a focus on plot and character development which captivates and moves the audience.*

Goal: *To select and analyze literature, then bring it to life through the creative use of voice, movement, and facial expression. Competitors should portray a realistic, varied emotional journey of a character(s) which may or may not be tragic.*

Dramatic Interpretation Preparation Rules:

1. Interpretive literature may come from a variety of genres including plays, prose, or poetry but the selection must be from a single **published** work, and it may not be authored by the competitor. The selection must be in compliance with **Stoa Publication Guidelines**.
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 The following unpublished works are not permitted: blogs and media transcripts (i.e. movie scripts and audio or video recordings that are not published in written form by the owner).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 **Stoa Publication Guidelines**.
3. The literature should be edited to fit the time limit.
4. A maximum of 150 words may be added for any purpose including but not limited to introductions and transitions. Joining together disconnected words from the source to create new thoughts or ideas are counted as added words.
5. The competitor may quote material external to the piece in the introduction only and must cite the source verbally. This material must be counted as part of the 150 added words.
6. Changes to pronouns, verb tenses, and character names are allowed and not counted as added words. The title and author are not counted as added words.
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 at each tournament. See **Script Submission Form**. Note: Electronic Script Submission is required at NITOC.

Dramatic Interpretation Presentation Rules:

1. The competitor must identify the title and author near the beginning of the piece. The competitor will receive a one (1) rank penalty for failure to cite the source.
2. No audio or visual aids or props may be used.
3. Only feet are permitted to touch the floor at any time.
4. Gratuitous vulgarity is strictly prohibited.
5. This is a speech event but some singing and dancing are permitted as appropriate to the piece.
6. The script 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.
7. Timepiece must be **facing toward the competitor and counting up**. Local tournaments may choose to give hand signals every minute until ten (10) minutes have elapsed.
8. Maximum speaking time is ten (10) minutes. There is no minimum time limit.
9. Competitors will receive a one (1) rank penalty for going over time by 15 seconds or more.

Speaking time – ten (10) minutes.

Duo Interpretation Rules

Description: *In Duo Interpretation two competitors create an original rendition of a relatable story from one or more published work(s) of literature with a focus on plot and character development which captivates and moves the audience. Stand-up comedy or telling a series of jokes without a corresponding plot is not Duo Interpretation.*

Goal: *To select and analyze literature, then bring it to life through creative use of voice, facial expression, and movement without interacting face-to-face.*

Duo Interpretation Preparation Rules:

1. Interpretive literature may come from a variety of genres including plays, prose, or poetry, but the selection(s) must be from **published** work(s) and may not be authored by the competitor. The selection must be in compliance with **Stoa Publication Guidelines**.
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 **Stoa Publication Guidelines**.
3. Literature should be edited to fit the time limit.
4. The competitor may weave multiple sources together around a common theme.
5. A maximum of 150 words may be added for any purpose including but not limited to introductions and transitions. Joining together disconnected words from the source to create new thoughts or ideas are counted as added words.
6. Changes to pronouns, verb tenses, and character names are allowed and not counted as added words. The title and author are not counted as added words.
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 Duo 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 original source(s) at each tournament. See **Script Submission Form**. Note: Electronic Script Submission is required at NITOC.

Duo Interpretation Presentation Rules:

1. The competitors must identify the title(s) and author(s) near the beginning of the piece. The competitors will receive a one (1) rank penalty for failure to cite the source(s).
2. The selection should provide a balanced performance between the two competitors.
3. The competitors may not look at each other, touch each other, or interact face-to-face.
4. No audio or visual aids or props may be used.
5. Only feet are permitted to touch the floor at any time.
6. Gratuitous vulgarity is strictly prohibited.
7. This is a speech event but some singing and dancing are permitted as appropriate to the piece.
8. The script 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.
9. Timepiece must be **facing toward the competitor** and **counting up**. Local tournaments may choose to give hand signals every minute until ten (10) minutes have elapsed.
10. Maximum speaking time is ten (10) minutes. There is no minimum time limit.
11. Competitors will receive a one (1) rank penalty for going over time by 15 seconds or more.

Speaking time – ten (10) minutes.

Humorous Interpretation Rules

Description: *In Humorous Interpretation the competitor creates an original rendition of a relatable story from a single published work of literature using humor to connect with the audience. Stand-up comedy or telling a series of jokes without a corresponding plot is not Humorous Interpretation.*

Goal: *To select and analyze literature, then bring it to life through the creative use of voice, movement, and facial expression. The story should be conveyed humorously using plot, character development and comedic timing.*

Humorous Interpretation Preparation Rules:

1. Interpretive literature may come from a variety of genres including plays, prose, or poetry but the selection must be from a single **published** work, and it may not be authored by the competitor. The selection must be in compliance with **Stoa Publication Guidelines**.
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 **Stoa Publication Guidelines**.
3. The literature should be edited to fit the time limit.
4. A maximum of 150 words may be added for any purpose including but not limited to introductions and transitions. Joining together disconnected words from the source to create new thoughts or ideas are counted as added words.
5. The competitor may quote material external to the piece in the introduction only and must cite the source verbally. This material must be counted as part of the 150 added words.
6. Changes to pronouns, verb tenses, and character names are allowed and not counted as added words. The title and author are not counted as added words.
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 Humorous 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 at each tournament. See **Script Submission Form**. Note: Electronic Script Submission is required at NITOC.

Humorous Interpretation Presentation Rules:

1. The competitor must identify the title and author near the beginning of the piece. The competitor will receive a one (1) rank penalty for failure to cite the source.
2. No audio or visual aids or props may be used.
3. Only feet are permitted to touch the floor at any time.
4. Gratuitous vulgarity is strictly prohibited.
5. This is a speech event but some singing and dancing are permitted as appropriate to the piece.
6. The script 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.
7. Timepiece must be **facing toward the competitor** and **counting up**. Local tournaments may choose to give hand signals every minute until ten (10) minutes have elapsed.
8. Maximum speaking time is ten (10) minutes. There is no minimum time limit.
9. Competitors will receive a one (1) rank penalty for going over time by 15 seconds or more.

Speaking time – ten (10) minutes.

Expository Rules

Description: *An Expository speech is a prepared speech written by the competitor, which explains and illustrates a topic through both words and visuals (e.g., illustrated boards, physical props, digital and electronic presentations, or any combination).*

Goal: *To develop a winsome, polished speaker who has learned to constructively use chosen media to enhance the topic.*

Expository Preparation Rules:

1. The competitor may prepare a speech on any topic.
2. The speech may inform, persuade, entertain, inspire, or eulogize.
3. The speech must be an original work, written by the competitor.
4. An Expository speech may be used in multiple leagues during any given competitive season. However, if the competitor uses a speech topic in any competition in any venue, that competitor may not reuse it in subsequent years of competition.
5. The speech may be entered in only one event per tournament. The competitor may place the speech in a different event in subsequent tournaments.
6. The competitor may enter only one speech per event.
7. The competitor must provide a script and a citation page (if needed) at each tournament, along with the completed Platform Speech Script Submission Form. All sources must be **cited in text and orally within the speech**. Note: Electronic Script Submission is required at NITOC.
8. Copyrighted images must also be cited on the final citation page but need not be cited orally or in text.
9. A maximum of 30% of the speech may consist of directly quoted material.

Expository Presentation Rules:

1. **All direct quotations and primary sources must be cited verbally** within the body of the speech. Use of another person's words or ideas without crediting them is plagiarism and strictly forbidden.
2. The script must be memorized and delivered as written in the script. No scripts or notes may be referred to in competition rounds. The competitor will receive a two (2) rank penalty for use of a script or notes in competition.
3. Audio/Visual aids and effects may be used.
4. Computers may be used.
5. **Tournaments shall provide access to power outlet in presentation rooms.**
6. All props and equipment needed for the speech must be **supplied by the competitor** (e.g., projectors, screens, power cords, tables, chairs, etc.).
7. Each speaker has approximately two minutes for setup.
8. Any special clothing related to the speech may only be put on or displayed after the speech begins.
9. The presentation area must be left in the same condition as it was prior to the speech.
10. Due to likely restrictions at tournament facilities and liability concerns (including NITOC), use of weapons (i.e., guns, knives, swords), explosives, or incendiary devices is prohibited. This includes the use of food preparation knives of any material.
11. Nothing may be distributed or offered to the judges or audience members.
12. People and live animals may not be used as aides or active participants in the speech.
13. Gratuitous vulgarity is strictly prohibited.
14. Timepiece must be **facing toward the competitor and counting up**. Local tournaments may choose to give hand signals every minute until ten (10) minutes have elapsed.
15. Maximum speaking time is ten (10) minutes. There is no minimum time requirement.
16. Competitors will receive a one (1) rank penalty for going over time by 15 seconds or more.

Speaking Time – ten (10) minutes.

Open Interpretation Rules

Description: *In Open Interpretation the competitor creates an original rendition from literature that may be published, unpublished 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 Stoa Publication Guidelines.
3. The literature should be edited to fit the time limit.
4. The competitor may weave multiple sources together around a common theme.
5. There is no limit to the number of words added by the competitor or any restriction on how those words are used.
6. Dialogue from one character may be given to another character.
7. 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).
8. 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.
9. The competitor may enter only one interpretive selection per event.
10. The competitor must provide a script and scanned pages used from original source(s) at each tournament. See **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. No audio or visual aids or props may be used.
3. Only feet are permitted to touch the floor at any time.
4. Gratuitous vulgarity is strictly prohibited.
5. This is a speech event but some singing and dancing are permitted as appropriate to the piece.
6. The script 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.
7. Timepiece must be **facing toward the competitor** and **counting up**. Local tournaments may choose to give hand signals every minute until six (6) minutes have elapsed.
8. Maximum speaking time is six (6) minutes. There is no minimum time limit.
9. Competitors will receive a one (1) rank penalty for going over time by 15 seconds or more.

Speaking time – six (6) minutes.

Oratory Analysis Rules

Description: *An Oratory Analysis is a prepared presentation of a historical or contemporary speech which includes an analysis of the content and the cultural impact of that speech, demonstrating an understanding of the context, the speaker, and the rhetorical elements that made it great.*

Goal: *To move and educate an audience by showing insights into a historical or contemporary speech by focusing on the original speaker, time period, rhetorical elements, and societal effects of the speech.*

Oratory Analysis Preparation Rules:

1. The competitor will prepare a speech on a single historical or contemporary oration (or portion thereof) in the written public record which was not written by the competitor.
2. The analysis must be an original work, written by the competitor.
3. An Oratory Analysis topic may be used in multiple leagues during any given competitive season. However, if the competitor uses a speech topic in any competition in any venue, that competitor may not reuse it in subsequent years of competition.
4. The speech may be entered in only one event per tournament. The competitor may place the speech in a different event in subsequent tournaments.
5. The competitor may enter only one speech per event.
6. The original oration's verifiable date (**month, day, year are required**) and location must be included in the script, and the reference for the **published text** of the oration is required on the citation page. No audio or video sources will be accepted. See Script Submission Form.
7. The competitor must provide a script and a citation page at each tournament along with the completed Oratory Analysis Script Submission Form. All sources must be **cited in text and orally within the speech**. Note: Electronic Script Submission is required at NITOC.
8. A maximum of 50% of the competitor's speech may consist of directly quoted material, which includes the original oration and any additional sources.

Oratory Analysis Presentation Rules:

1. The speaker, place, and date of the original oration should be given early in the speech to provide the context.
2. The competitor must present all or part of the original oration and provide an analysis of the content and its societal effects. This analysis may be provided at the beginning, the end, and/or throughout the entire presentation.
3. **All direct quotations and primary sources must be cited verbally** within the body of the speech. Use of another person's words or ideas without crediting them is plagiarism and is strictly forbidden.
4. The script 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.
5. No props, audio, or visual aids may be used.
6. Gratuitous vulgarity is strictly prohibited.
7. Timepiece must be facing toward the competitor and counting up. Local tournaments may choose to give hand signals every minute until eight (8) minutes have elapsed.
8. Maximum speaking time is eight (8) minutes. There is no minimum time requirement.
9. Competitors will receive a one (1) rank penalty for going over time by 15 seconds or more.

Speaking Time – eight (8) minutes.

Original Oratory Rules

Description: *An Original Oratory is a prepared speech written by the competitor on a topic of the competitor's choice.*

Goal: *To develop a winsome, polished speaker who can present an engaging, well organized speech. The purpose of this informative speech is to explain, describe, or expose the topic.*

Original Oratory Preparation Rules:

1. The competitor may prepare a speech on any topic.
2. The speech may inform, entertain, inspire, or eulogize.
3. The speech must be an original work, written by the competitor.
4. An Original Oratory may be used in multiple leagues during any given competitive season. However, if the competitor uses a speech topic in any competition in any venue, that competitor may not reuse it in subsequent years of competition.
5. The speech may be entered in only one event per tournament. The competitor may place the speech in a different event in subsequent tournaments.
6. The competitor may enter only one speech per event.
7. The competitor must provide a script and a citation page (if needed) at each tournament, along with the completed Platform Speech Script Submission Form. All sources must be **cited in text and orally within the speech**. Note: Electronic Script Submission is required at NITOC.
8. A maximum of 30% of the speech may consist of directly quoted material.

Original Oratory Presentation Rules:

1. **All direct quotations and primary sources must be cited verbally** within the body of the speech. Use of another person's words or ideas without crediting them is plagiarism and is strictly forbidden.
2. The script 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.
3. No props, audio, or visual aids may be used.
4. Gratuitous vulgarity is strictly prohibited.
5. Timepiece must be **facing toward the competitor** and **counting up**. Local tournaments may choose to give hand signals every minute until ten (10) minutes have elapsed.
6. Maximum speaking time is ten (10) minutes. There is no minimum time requirement.
7. Competitors will receive a one (1) rank penalty for going over time by 15 seconds or more.

Speaking Time – ten (10) minutes.

Persuasive Rules

Description: *A Persuasive speech is a prepared speech written by the competitor which advocates a specific position or course of action.*

Goal: *To develop a winsome speaker who can state a clearly worded position supported by convincing arguments and well-researched support.*

Persuasive Preparation Rules:

1. The competitor may prepare a speech on any topic.
2. The purpose of the speech is to advocate a particular position or course of action with the goal of influencing the audience's opinion.
3. The speech must be an original work, written by the competitor.
4. A Persuasive speech may be used in multiple leagues during any given competitive season. However, if the competitor uses a speech topic in any competition in any venue, that competitor may not reuse it in subsequent years of competition.
5. The speech may be entered in only one event per tournament. The competitor may place the speech in a different event in subsequent tournaments.
6. The competitor may enter only one speech per event.
7. The competitor must provide a script and a citation page (if needed) at each tournament, along with the completed Platform Speech Script Submission Form. All sources must be **cited in text and orally within the speech**. Note: Electronic Script Submission is required at NITOC.
8. A maximum of 30% of the speech may consist of directly quoted material.

Persuasive Presentation Rules:

1. **All direct quotations and primary sources must be cited verbally** within the body of the speech. Use of another person's words or ideas without crediting them is plagiarism and is strictly forbidden.
2. The script 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.
3. No props, or audio, or visual aids may be used.
4. Gratuitous vulgarity is strictly prohibited.
5. Timepiece must be **facing toward the competitor and counting up**. Local tournaments may choose to give hand signals every minute until ten (10) minutes have elapsed.
6. Maximum speaking time is ten (10) minutes. There is no minimum time requirement.
7. Competitors will receive a one (1) rank penalty for going over time by 15 seconds or more.

Speaking Time – ten (10) minutes.