



A Dramatic Interpretation creatively explores and develops the intellectual, emotional, and artistic embodiment of a single piece of literature for performance. Dramatic Interpretation material is dramatic in nature.

DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION GENERAL RULES

(For clarification of the General Rules, see the Speech FAQs on the NCFCA website.)

- The competitor will select a non-original, published piece of literature to interpret from the genre of plays, prose, or poetry. Media transcriptions from movies, TV, or audio recordings are not allowed. Internet sources are not permitted.
- The goal of the interpretive events is to develop a selection from a single piece of literature into an original performance.
- Material must be prepared and used for the current NCFCA season only. Speakers may not enter the same speech in more than one event at the same tournament.
- The title and author of the selection must be introduced. A one rank penalty is required for failure to do so. The piece identification should be near its beginning but may follow a teaser or background information.
- Competitors may cut a piece of literature to fit the time limit. It is not permissible to change the author's words, other than pronouns and verb tense, for any reason.
- Up to 150 original words may be added to the selection for introductory purposes and may only be used in the introduction.
- No material may be quoted from literature outside of the piece selected for the speech.
- No props, costumes, audiovisuals, or gratuitous vulgarity will be allowed.
- Limited singing and dancing is permitted. No song lyrics taken from another source may be used.
- All action should generally take place center stage. Only feet are permitted to touch the floor at any time.
- Audience laughter, which extends the time of a piece, should not penalize the speaker.
- No notes or prompting are allowed.
- Use of a script is allowed at a Qualifying Tournament, Regional Invitational or National Open but requires a penalty of two ranks. Use of a script at the National Championship will result in disqualification.
- Scripts must be submitted at all NCFCA tournaments. Script Submission forms and requirements may be found on the NCFCA website.
- Time limit: 10-minute maximum; no minimum time.

Dramatic Interpretation FAQ

Can I compete with the same speech in two different categories?

Speakers may not use the same speech in two separate categories at the same tournament. However, the same speech can be moved to a different category at a different tournament. If the speech qualifies to advance to a higher level (Regionals or Nationals) of competition in both categories the speaker will have to choose a category.

What is a published piece of literature?

A published piece of literature is a work of an author which is printed and available to the public.

Publish: To distribute copies (of a work) to the public. Black's Law Dictionary (7th Edition, 1999)

My piece of literature is not available at my local library. May I use the Gutenberg Press website for my Form 2 document?

No.

Can I combine different books of the Bible for my Interp?

No, each book of the Bible is considered a different piece of literature.

May I use multiple pieces as long as they are published in one book, like a compilation of Peanuts comics or several Dave Berry newspaper articles?

No, you may only use a single piece of literature.

Can I use the 150 introductory word allowance for any other purpose?

No, the 150-word allowance is not to be used for other purposes. The intent of the 150 word allowance is for the introduction. It is not to be used to add words to the piece: not to incorporate more entertaining rhetoric, not to add original work into the piece, and not to incorporate another author's work into an interpretation.

In my introduction, may I have the author or author's character(s) with my own words to introduce my piece?

No

Can I add a Bible verse that helps to communicate my message?

No, adding a Bible verse would be considered a second source of literature.

In cutting my piece, may I combine phrases from several sentences?

Yes.

For example, from a J.R.R. Tolkien Tale (*Farmer Giles of Ham*):

1. "Without warning or formality he wooped out to give battle. Down he came upon them with a rush and a roar." - may be cut to read: "Without warning or formality he came upon them with a rush and a roar."

In cutting my piece, may I use single words of the author to create new phrases or sentences?

No

In cutting my piece may I insert single words into sentences within the literature?

No.

What is gratuitous vulgarity?

This refers to vulgar, obscene or profane language or gestures which are included for shock value. Gratuitous vulgarity is not appropriate.

Can I replace an objectionable word, such as vulgar or obscene language, in my piece with a less objectionable word?

The only words that may be substituted in interpretations are pronouns and verb tense. However, you may delete word(s). You might also delete the scene or that portion of the literature.

Can I add language that I believe to be consistent with what the author intended?

No, you may not add any language after the introduction.

I would like to change the setting in my script. It is set in Scottsdale, Arizona and I would like it to be on a farm in Vermont. I would only need to change a couple of words. Is this acceptable?

You are free to interpret the setting of your piece any way you wish. You are not, however, allowed to change the author's words.

Can I take lines from one or more characters and give them to another character?

Yes.

Can I change the tenses of verbs in my Interp?

Yes.

May I repeat the author's words or phrases when the author does not do so?

Yes

Can automatic script penalties be waived for a speaker with learning disabilities or difficulty with memorization?

The answer is that there can be no exceptions. Competitive forensics reveals strengths in young speakers who did not believe they were capable. Speakers are frequently unable to memorize until they "have to." When speech participants have to, they often try harder and achieve more than they thought they could. Finally, the purpose of this activity is not

to win, but to grow in communication ability. The memorization requirement is included to encourage speakers to be the best communicators they can be.

My child has special needs and/or circumstances. Can he be considered an exception to a competition rule?

From a practical standpoint, an exception here would open the door for a host of exceptions. An unlimited number of participants could see themselves in need of exceptions and an infinite number of potential exceptions requested. It becomes highly complicated to communicate the variety of potential exceptions to the judges as well as competitors. The ultimate purpose for participating in competitive forensics is to improve communication skills. Special students have shown much improvement in this environment.

Is it legal for us to submit a copy of our scripts?

Traditionally many copyrighted works have been used under the "fair use" doctrine for the purposes of interpretive competition events in an educational setting. However, each family is responsible for making their own determination based upon the works they select if written permission from the publisher is required. Further information on copyright law may be found here (<http://www.copyright.gov/fls/fl102.html>).

DRAMATIC INTERP JUDGE WORKSHEET

N C F C A

NAME OF JUDGE _____

ROOM _____ ROUND# _____

A Dramatic Interpretation creatively explores and develops the intellectual, emotional, and artistic embodiment of a single piece of literature for performance. Dramatic Interpretation material is dramatic in nature.

Judging Rules

- The competitor will select a non-original, published piece of literature to interpret from the genre of plays, prose, or poetry. Media transcriptions from movies, TV, or audio recordings are not allowed. Internet sources are not permitted.
- The goal of the interpretive events is to develop a selection from a single piece of literature into an original performance.
- Material must be prepared and used for the current NCFCA season only. Speakers may not enter the same speech in more than one event at the same tournament.
- The title and author of the selection must be introduced. A one rank penalty is required for failure to do so. The piece identification should be near its beginning but may follow a teaser or background information.
- Competitors may cut a piece of literature to fit the time limit. It is not permissible to change the author's words, other than pronouns and verb tense, for any reason.
- Up to 150 original words may be added to the selection for introductory purposes and may only be used in the introduction.
- No material may be quoted from literature outside of the piece selected for the speech.
- No props, costumes, audiovisuals, or gratuitous vulgarity will be allowed.
- Limited singing and dancing is permitted. No song lyrics taken from another source may be used.
- All action should generally take place center stage. Only feet are permitted to touch the floor at any time.
- Audience laughter, which extends the time of a piece, should not penalize the speaker.
- No notes or prompting are allowed.
- Use of a script is allowed at a Qualifying Tournament, Regional Invitational or National Open but requires a penalty of two ranks. Use of a script at the National Championship will result in disqualification.
- Time limit: 10-minute maximum; no minimum time.

Tabulation Worksheet Instructions

- Rank presentations according to preference, 1 being the best, 2 being second best, etc., in the *Original Rank* column.
- Record penalties from the violations portion of the ballot in the *Penalties in Rank* column. Record a zero for no penalties.
- For violations requiring a penalty, the Ballot Checkers will assist you with the *Re-Ranking* and *Final Rank* columns.
- If there are no violations, fill in the *Final Rank* column.
- Circle the final rank on each corresponding ballot.

NAME OF SPEAKER	TOPIC	ORIGINAL RANK	PENALTIES IN RANK	RE-RANKING	FINAL RANK
			+		
			+		
			+		
			+		
			+		
			+		
			+		
			+		
			+		



DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION BALLOT

SPEAKER:	
ROOM:	
JUDGE:	
ROUND:	TIME:

Judges: *Your independent ballot is very important to us. Please do not discuss this ballot with anyone.
Please rate the speaker for each of the following criteria.*

The speaker...	Poor	Superior
Content Selection: ...presents quality selection of literary merit with universal appeal and unity of theme. ...moves, entertains, instructs, and/or provokes audience to thought. ...presents a selection that has a clear beginning, middle, end, climax and resolution.	P	S
Content Analysis: ...demonstrates a thorough understanding of the emotional and intellectual complexities of the piece. ...defines and reflects the character's mental and emotional state; transitions smoothly between characters and scenes.	*	*
Vocal Delivery: ...portrays character(s) with consistency and purpose, as motivated by literature. ...consistently creates distinct, well-defined character(s). ...creates mood; reinforces the emotional intent of selection. ...uses voice to project and articulate with appropriate emphasis; applies proper tone, pitch, rate, fluency, pacing, and inflection.	P	S
Physical Delivery: ...portrays movement of character(s) distinctly and appropriately to age, health, purpose and emotional intent. ...incorporates facial expressions, poise, and posture that is purposeful and motivated by character(s).	P	S
Overall Presentation: ...recreates emotional and intellectual intent of the literature. ...meets time requirement. ...demonstrate proficiency of delivery including poise and appropriate personal appearance. ...establishes emotional and mental rapport with audience.	P	S
VIOLATIONS REQUIRING A PENALTY IF NECESSARY: Failure to cite title & author (1 rank) + _____ Use of script (2 ranks) + _____ = Total penalty in rank(s) _____		
FINAL RANK WITHIN ROUND INCLUDING PENALTIES: (Circle one)		
#1 First	#2 Second	#3 Third
#4 Fourth	#5 Fifth & Below	

Reason for Ranking and other Comments: (Use back of sheet for additional comments.)