



An Open Interpretation is an inclusive interpretive event which enables students to present a wide variety of literary styles and sources.

OPEN INTERPRETATION

GENERAL RULES

- Open Interpretation provides an unrestricted opportunity for a student to creatively explore and develop the intellectual, emotional, and artistic embodiment of any type of literature he or she chooses. This may include original work, unpublished work by others, or traditional published material. Any genre is acceptable including, but not limited to: prose, poetry, storytelling, historical speeches, historical sermons, and thematic selections. Media transcriptions from movies, TV, or tape recordings are not allowed.
- Thematic interpretations present prose and/or poetry from more than one source, woven together around a common theme.
- Selections may be humorous, dramatic, or a combination of the two.
- Material must be prepared and used for the current NCFCA season only.
- The title(s) and author(s) of the selection(s) must be introduced. A one rank penalty is required for failure to do so.
- 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, for any reason.
- No props, costumes, audiovisuals, or gratuitous vulgarity will be allowed.
- Limited singing and dancing is permitted, but it must be purposeful and motivated by the literature.
- All action should generally take place center stage. Only feet are permitted to touch the floor at any time.
- Memorization is required. No scripts, notes or prompting are allowed. Use of a script in a Qualifying Tournament requires a penalty of two ranks. Use of a script at the National Championship requires 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

For clarification of the General Rules, see the FAQ section of the NCFCA website.

OPEN INTERPRETATION JUDGE WORKSHEET

NAME OF JUDGE _____
ROOM _____ ROUND # _____

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- Thematic interpretations present prose and/or poetry from more than one source, woven together around a common theme.
- Selections may be humorous, dramatic, or a combination of the two.
- The title(s) and author(s) of the selection(s) must be introduced. A one rank drop is required for failure to do so. The identification of the piece should be near the beginning of the piece but may follow a teaser or other background information.
- No props, costumes, audiovisuals, or gratuitous vulgarity will be allowed.
- Limited singing and dancing is permitted but it must be purposeful and motivated by the literature.
- Time limit: 10 minutes maximum; no minimum time.
- Audience participation or laughter, which extends the time of a piece, should not penalize the speaker.
- All action should generally take place center stage. Only feet are permitted to touch the floor at any time.
- Memorization is required. No scripts, notes or prompting are allowed. Use of a script in a Qualifying Tournament requires a drop of two ranks. Use of a script at the National Championship requires disqualification.

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.
- Add the original rank and penalties together and write the new rank in the *Re-Ranking* column.
- Using the *Re-Ranking* column to determine final ranks, proceed to fill in all the ranks in the *Final Rank* column. In the event of a tie, the higher rank (lower number) goes to the speaker with no, or fewer, penalties (e.g., two speakers have a 3 in the Re-Ranking column; Speaker A was originally ranked 3rd and Speaker B was 2nd with a 1 rank penalty; 2nd place now goes to Speaker A and 3rd place now goes to Speaker B.).
- Circle the final rank on each corresponding ballot.

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



OPEN 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) (if any) with consistency and purpose, as motivated by literature. ...consistently creates distinct, well-defined character(s) (if any). ...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) (if any).	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) _____		
<u>FINAL RANK WITHIN ROUND INCLUDING PENALTIES:</u> (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.)