

## **Event - Interpretation of Literature**

*Students will perform a piece of published work live.*

### **1. Pieces may be either dramatic or humorous.**

Our eventual goal is to break this division into two: dramatic and humorous. However, judges will be instructed to focus on the student's presentation, their use of vocal technique, physical movement, etc., and their choices around the performance itself, and not to prefer a piece based on whether it is dramatic or humorous in nature.

### **2. There is no minimum length for a performance, but performances should not exceed 10 minutes.**

We recognize that lengths will be variable, as students are at different stages in the process of choosing and memorizing a piece at the beginning of the year. We suggest as a rule of thumb that new students aim for a 3-5 minute performance. However, the only requirement is that a performance may not be longer than 10 minutes.

### **3. Students may bring a script for reference.**

It is the first tournament of the year and so we appreciate that students are still learning their pieces. However, we encourage students to memorize their material and make eye contact with their judges as much as they are able because students with more developed scripts and those who have memorized more of their pieces may well receive a higher score than less developed presentations.

As the year progresses, these rules will be adjusted to reflect the National Speech and Debate Association's tournament rules.

Here is a rubric you can use to judge the performance.

## Dramatic/Humorous Interpretation Rubric<sup>1</sup>

Note: This is an open-ended rubric. While, like most high school tournaments, we won't have interrater reliability, what is more important is that the judges apply the same rationale in scoring to all the competitors they judge, regardless of race, gender, and age.

Criteria	Comments
<p><b>Selection ( Maximum of 5 points):</b>            Is the selection appropriate for the speaker?            Does it show interest, intelligibility, and literary value?</p>	
<p><b>Introduction ( Maximum of 10 points):</b>            Are the title and the author clearly stated?            Is interest in the selection created?            Is the mood set?            Is the information relevant to and sufficient for the scene?</p>	
<p><b>Characterization (Maximum of 20 points) :</b>            Are the character(s) and their attitudes clear and vivid?            Do the characters interact well with one another? (DUO)            Does the speaker keep the character consistent throughout?            Does the speaker make clear distinctions when interpreting multiple characters?            Are transitions smooth when changing characters?            Does the speaker make the audience laugh (HI) or sympathize with (DI) his/her character?            Is the speaker able to demonstrate the age, status, ethnicity, and state of mind of the character?            Is the character believable?</p>	
<p><b>Vocal Delivery (Maximum of 20 points)</b>            Does the speaker use a variety of pitch?            Tone? Inflections? Volume? Vocal quality?            Pacing? Pausing? Timing?            Is enunciation distinct without being pedantic?            Does the speaker convey conversational style when appropriate?            Does the speaker carry an accent throughout?            Are lines spoken with the appropriate emotion/tone?</p>	
<p><b>Bodily Delivery: (Maximum of 20 points)</b>            Does the speaker maintain off-stage focus?            Does the speaker use appropriate facial expressions?            Is the speaker poised? Postured appropriately?            Do gestures contribute to the interpretation of the material?            Does the speaker avoid distracting/unmotivated movement?            How well does the speaker mime the actions of characters?            How well do we see the thought processes of the character?            Does movement complement/distract from the performance?            Can the audience see what is happening in the story/script?</p>	
<p><b>Insight and Understanding (Maximum of 20 points)</b></p>	

<sup>1</sup> Thank you to the coaches at the Eastside High School Speech and Debate team for making this rubric available at <https://eastsidespeechanddebate.weebly.com/> I have assigned point values to each category to help our judges score a speech out of 100.

<p>Does the speaker understand the mood/meaning of the selection?</p> <p>Does the speaker display an understanding of the author's intent?</p> <p>Does the speaker maintain the listener's interest/attention?</p> <p>Does the speaker effectively create scenes in the mind of the audience?</p> <p>Does the speaker create an entertaining or thoughtful presentation?</p> <p>Is the performance consistent?</p> <p>Is the total effect pleasing?</p>	
<p><b>Familiarity of Material/Use of Script (Maximum 5 points)</b></p> <p>Does the speaker know the material (even if it isn't memorized)?</p> <p>Does the speaker appropriately hold the script (i.e. it doesn't block the face or require two hands)?</p>	