

BH DEBATE AND SPEECH CLUB

Interpretation Speeches (Humorous or Dramatic)

TIME LIMIT: 5 to 8 minutes speech time, total set up/speech time 10 minutes

Speaker must meet minimum time to qualify for awards. Points lost for time overage.

Purpose

The purpose of the interpretive events is to develop a selection from a work of literature into a uniquely original performance that communicates both the oral and physical dimensions of the piece.

General Rules

Material must be prepared and used for the current season only. (Previous seasons' speeches and subject matter will be disqualified)

The competitor will select a non-original (written by another person), published piece of literature to interpret from the genre of plays, prose, poetry, or famous speeches.

Media transcriptions from movies, TV, or tape recordings are not allowed.

Dramatic Interpretation material is dramatic in nature

Humorous Interpretation material is humorous in nature. A humorous speech must be an interpretation of literary material and not "stand up comedy."

The title and author of the selection must be introduced. (Point penalty will occur if there is failure to do so.) The identification of the piece should be near its beginning but may follow a short teaser or other background information.

Competitors may cut a piece of literature to fit the time limit. Up to 100 words may be added to the selection for introductory and transitional purposes as long as the additional words do not change the intent of the author.

Limited, simple props or costumes may be allowed, but the vocal delivery must remain the main focus of conveying the piece.

Gratuitous vulgarity, sexual content, or sensitive topic matters will not 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.

Audience participation or laughter that extends the time of a piece will not result in penalizing the speaker.

Memorization is required. Use of scripts, notes, or prompting will result in loss of points. Each participant will submit a copy of the script to the judge.