



*An Open Interpretation creatively explores and develops the intellectual, emotional, and artistic embodiment of a single piece of literature for performance.*

## **OPEN INTERPRETATION EVENT RULES**

- The speaker will select a single, non-original, published piece of literature to interpret from the genre of plays, prose, or poetry. A published piece of literature is a work of an author which is printed or available in e-book form and available to the public. E-books must have an ISBN. Media transcriptions from movies, TV, or audio recordings are not allowed. Internet materials other than e-books are not permitted.
- The goal of the event is to develop a piece from a single selection of literature into an original performance. Only a single selection may be used from within an anthology. Each book of the Bible is considered a separate source of literature.
- No material may be quoted from literature outside of the single selection. This includes writing from the dust jacket book cover, as it is commonly considered a different writing than the piece of literature itself.
- No song lyrics or tunes taken from another source may be used. Limited singing and dancing is permitted only when motivated by the literature.
- 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 the beginning of the piece, but may follow a teaser from the selection. There should be a clear distinction between the student's words and the author's words.
- Up to 150 original words may be added to the selection for introductory purposes and may only be used in the introduction. The introduction refers to the student's narrative and is used to set the scene of the selection. The introduction should only be used to develop the theme of the piece and not to introduce superfluous rhetoric, which includes but is not limited to additional story lines or additional skit material.
- It is not permissible to use the author or author's character with the student's own words to introduce the piece. Students may introduce the characters by using the posture, voice or facial expression of a character while announcing only that character's name.
- Students may cut a piece of literature to fit the time limit. In cutting the piece, phrases from several sentences may be combined. Although single words taken from nearby sentences may be added for transition or character identification, single words from separate sentences may not be strung together to create new sentences.
- It is not permissible to add to or change the author's words for any reason other than pronoun/antecedent substitution, appropriate articles, and verb tense. It is permissible to repeat an author's words or phrases when the author does not do so.
- Lines may be taken from one or more characters and given to another character.
- The storyline need not follow the chronological order of the original piece of literature.

- Sound effects may only be used if they are not recognizable words found in a published non-internet-sourced dictionary, and if they are motivated by the piece of literature.
- Speakers presenting a speech which is intense or otherwise unsuitable for all audiences should consider ways to protect sensitive audience members by announcing before the speech begins that it may not be suitable for all audiences. This will allow younger students, families, and the timekeeper, where appropriate, to leave the room before the speech begins.
- Gratuitous vulgarity is not allowed. Gratuitous vulgarity refers to vulgar, obscene, or profane language or gestures which are included for shock value. Omitting objectionable words or phrases should be considered where appropriate.
- Props, costumes, and audiovisuals are not allowed. A prop refers to any physical item which might be used to animate or illustrate the speech. A costume refers to a part or all of the speaker's attire that is worn for the purpose of enhancing a particular speech.
- All action should generally take place center stage. Only feet are permitted to touch the floor at any time.
- Scripts must be submitted at all sanctioned NCFCA tournaments. The submitted script must be followed during all competition rounds.
- Script use during a speech at a Qualifying Tournament, Regional Invitational, or National Open is allowed but requires a penalty of two ranks.
- Use of a script at the National Championship will result in disqualification.
- Note use or prompting is not allowed. Note use refers to written material in addition to the script, and prompting refers to assistance from audience members during the speech.
- 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. If the speech qualifies to advance to a higher level of competition (Regionals or Nationals) in more than one category, the speaker will have to choose a category at the higher-level tournament.
- Audience laughter that extends the time of a piece should not penalize the speaker.
- Time limit: 10-minute maximum; no minimum time.