



Open is an interpretation speech in which the speaker explores a published or self-authored literature selection and develops a unique, original performance.

Open

Interpretation Speech

1. **General Speech Rules and Script Rules** must be followed in addition to these Event Rules.
2. **Speech time** is limited to a 10-minute maximum.
3. **A single, literature selection, published or self-authored**, must be presented as a unique and original performance.
 - **Single** indicates that only one literature selection may be used. Even from a collection, only one selection may be used (e.g. an individual book of the Bible, a single short story or poem from a collection, a single comic strip from a compilation, etc.).
 - **Literature** includes plays, prose, or poetry.
 - **Published** indicates a work of an author which is available to the public. Published does not include material from blogs or social media, or works which are solely audio or video recordings, movies, TV, or radio.
 - **Self-authored** indicates the work of the speaker.
 - **Unique and original performance** indicates that cutting, blocking, characterizations, etc. should be developed primarily by the speaker.
4. **When introducing the literature selection:**
 - **Up to 150 words** may be added as an introduction before the literature selection or immediately after a teaser.
 - **Clear distinction** must be made between the introductory words and the literature selection.
 - **The title and author** of the literature selection must be included in the introduction but are not included in the 150-word count. This identification should be near the beginning of the selection, but may follow a teaser from the literature selection.
 - **Directly quoted material** (Bible verses, song lyrics, quotes, etc.) may only be used in the introduction and must be included in the 150-word count. Sources for directly quoted material must be verbally mentioned in the speech, parenthetically cited within the script, and listed on the Works Cited page.
 - **Original dialogue** must not be assigned to an author's character in a non-original selection.

5. When cutting the literature selection:

- **Combining phrases** from several sentences is permitted.
- **Adding single words** from nearby sentences is permitted for transition or character identification, but single words from separate sentences may not be strung together to create new sentences.
- **Repeating an author's words** is permitted even when an author does not do so.
- **Changing an author's words** is only permitted for pronoun substitution, verb tense, and subject-verb agreement.
- **Giving one character's lines** to another existing character is permitted, but new characters may not be created.

6. When delivering the speech:

- **Limited singing** is permitted only if motivated by the literature selection and may comprise up to 60 total words in the entire piece. Published tunes from another source are permitted in the literature section only if the song lyrics and/or published tune are specifically included in the literature selection.
- **Limited dancing** is permitted only if motivated by the literature selection.
- **Sound effects** are permitted only if motivated by the literature selection.
- **Visual aids** are not permitted. Visual aids are items used to enhance the speech.