



*Biblical Thematic is an interpretation speech in which the speaker analyzes three or more literature selections, including at least one Scripture selection, and develops a unique, original performance using a visual aid.*

# Biblical Thematic Event Rules

## 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. **Three or more literature selections**, which may include plays, prose, songs, or poetry, must be analyzed and developed as a unique, original performance.
  - Each selection must be separate, not woven together.
  - Each selection may be used up to two times.
  - **Unique and original performance** indicates that cutting, blocking, characterizations, etc. should be developed primarily by the speaker.
4. **When choosing selections:**
  - a. **At least one Scripture selection with a minimum of 300 words must be presented.**
    - **Scripture selection(s) must remain unaltered.**
    - **Only traditional Bibles** may be used. Chronological or topical Bibles may not be used.
    - **Only KJV, NKJV, ESV, NIV, or NASB** translations may be used.
    - **Chapter headings, commentary, etc.** added by the publisher are not considered to be Scripture and must not be included in the selection(s) of Scripture.
  - b. **One or more non-original, published selection(s) may be presented.**
    - **Non-original** indicates that the literature selection is not written by the speaker.
    - **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.

c. **One self-authored selection may be presented.**

- **Self-authored** indicates an original work of the speaker (i.e., not an adaptation of an existing piece from another author).

5. **When introducing or analyzing the selection(s) in the narrative sections:**

- **Up to 300 total words** may be added as introduction, transitional analysis, and/or conclusion.
- **Clear distinction** must be made between the narrative sections and the literature selections.
- **The title, author, and/or biblical reference(s)** of each selection must be verbally mentioned immediately before the selection; however, the title, author, and/or biblical reference of the first literature selection may follow a teaser. The title, author, and/or biblical reference(s) are not included in the 300-word count.
- **Sources for supporting material** must be verbally stated, parenthetically cited following the material in the script, and listed on the Works Cited page.
  - **Supporting material** includes another person's information, details, research, theories, stories, or ideas whether directly quoted or summarized.
  - **Common knowledge** that is known to most people does not need to be cited in any way.
- **Characterization and blocking** are permitted.
- **Original dialogue** must not be assigned to an author's character.

6. **When cutting a published literature selection other than Scripture:**

- **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 permitted only 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.

## 7. When writing a self-authored literature selection:

- **Sources for supporting material** do not necessarily need to be verbally stated but must be parenthetically cited following the material in the script and listed on the Works Cited page.
  - **Supporting material** includes another person's information, details, research, theories, stories, or ideas whether directly quoted or summarized.
  - **Common knowledge** that is known to most people does not need to be cited in any way.

## 8. When delivering the speech:

- **A small binder** must be used.
  - **This binder** (approximately 6" x 9" x 1") **may contain** paper-based materials and page protectors.
  - **Speakers may read** from the binder and **may creatively use** the binder and its contents as visual aid(s).
  - **Citations for any non-original illustrations or images** used in the binder must be listed on the Works Cited page.
- **Visual aids**, other than the binder and its contents, are not permitted. Visual aids are items used to enhance the speech.
- **Limited dancing** is permitted if motivated by the literature selection(s).
- **Sound Effects** are permitted.