



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

# Open 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. **A single published or self-authored literature selection** 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, etc.).
  - **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 an original work of the speaker (i.e., not an adaptation of an existing piece from another author).
  - **Literature** includes plays, prose, or poetry. Comics (regardless of publication format), stand-up comedy acts, and strings of jokes must not be used.
  - **Unique and original performance** indicates that cutting, blocking, characterizations, etc. should be developed primarily by the speaker.
4. **When introducing and/or concluding the literature selection:**
  - **Up to 150 total words** may be added.
    - **An introduction** may follow immediately after a short teaser from the literature selection.
    - **Any words added as a conclusion** must be the final words presented.
  - **Clear distinction** must be made from 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.
  - **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.

- **Original dialogue** must not be assigned to an author's character.

## 5. When cutting a published 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 writing a self-authored literature selection:

- **Sources for supporting material** do not necessarily need to be verbally stated but must be parenthetically cited with 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.

## 7. When delivering the speech:

- **Limited singing** is permitted 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 if motivated by the literature selection.
- **Sound effects** are permitted.
- **Visual aids** are not permitted. Visual aids are items used to enhance the speech.