

Speech I Fall 2019: Unit 1 Prepared Speech: Poetry Interpretation Performance

The purpose of a poetic interpretation is for students to showcase the ability to analyze text, character, meaning, and tone.

For this first speech, you will work with a partner. Please choose this individual wisely, as you will both need to put in equal effort.

Directions:

- Choose a poem from the available choices on Google Classroom.
- Read the poem with your partner.
- Analyze to determine the following:
 - ◆ What is the poet's overall message?
 - ◆ What is the poet's tone?
 - ◆ Who are the characters in this poem?
 - ◆ What qualities do these characters possess?
- Think about how you, as a pair, can divide the poem to perform. This may mean each person performing a stanza, partners alternating lines, or individual delivery of some lines and simultaneous delivery of others. It's your interpretation, so it's up to you.

Requirements:

- Poems must be memorized. This means you should practice, practice, practice!
- You may use 1-2 props if needed, but no costumes.
- Tone, pacing, and body language are key here! (Refer to the examples below)
- Your performance must not go over 5 minutes in length. After 5 minutes, you will be asked to stop, even if you are not finished.

You and your partner will be collectively graded on your interpretation, but individually graded on body language, pacing, and tone. Therefore, your final grades for the assignment may be slightly different.

Poetry Performance Examples:

[When Love Arrives by Sarah Kay and Phil Kaye](#)

[Ashley Meyer, 2013 NSDA Poetry Interpretation Champion](#)

Timeline:

Thursday 8/29 - Select partner and poem

Friday 8/30 - Review specific requirements; practice

Tuesday 9/2 and Wednesday 9/3 - Some in-class practice time (but not the entire period)

Thursday 9/4 - Performances!

Oral Interpretation Scoring Rubric

Category	(4) Excellent	(3) Very Good	(2) Okay	(1) Unacceptable
Pronunciation/ Enunciation	Precise, easily understandable	Some words and phrases unclear	Words run together	Frequent mispronunciation, mumbling, or monotone; cannot be understood by the audience
Vocal Variety	Pitch and tone enhance the poem through skillful use of voice; Reflects message of the speech	Pitch and tone convey moments of connection and enthusiasm	Tones inappropriate for message; audience's understanding is impeded	Lack of variety; monotone; distracting rhythm
Volume	Easily heard by entire audience throughout the performance	Decreasing volume at end of sentences	Significant periods of low volume; audience struggles to hear without considerable effort	Vocal volume is too soft to be heard by the audience
Pacing	Pacing is insightfully used throughout the performance to convey meaning and engage the audience	Pacing is partially used to improve the meaning of the poem and the impact for the audience	Pacing is used at times, but only minimally effective in improving meaning or content for the audience	Pacing is not intentionally used in the performance
Interpretation	Style of delivery reflects internalization of poem	Style of delivery reflects understanding of the poem; poem's voice is well conveyed	Poem is neither overwhelmed or enhanced by style of delivery	Poem is secondary to style of delivery (ie - Performers are trying to be funny or cute, and not actually focusing on poem)
Physical Presence	Authoritative body language and eye contact show compelling stage presence	Poised; strong stage presence	Body language and eye contact are at times unsure, at times confident	Timid and unsure; Body language reflects nervousness
Gestures	All gestures and movements feel essential to the poem's success	Gestures and movements are appropriate to poem	Instances of distracting gestures that detract from the	Significant distracting gestures; acting out of the context of the poem; over emoting or inappropriate gestures

			efficacy of the performance	
Eye Contact	Always looks at entire audience	Looks at entire audience most of the time	Occasionally looks at a few people	Eyes always on script
Body Posture	Posture reflects moods, action, and characters	Some attempt at Physicalization of moods, action, and characters	Posture is neutral and doesn't always reflect mood, action, or characters	Posture shows lack of confidence
Facial Expressions	Expressive and reflects moods, characters, action of scene	Reflects moods	Minimal attempts at variation	Neutral or inappropriate to poem's context
Vocal Characterization	Characters distinguished by clear vocal differences	Characters attempted vocally	Inconsistent vocal characterization	Reading with minimal vocal variety
Time Limit	Within limits	Too long	Too short	Did not complete
Total				