

Juniors Open Interpretation Speech Rules

Speech Length: 6 minutes.



Description:

An Open Interpretation creatively portrays a single selection of published literature, with the goal of captivating and moving the audience through the creative use of voice, movement, and facial expressions as the student acts out the scenes in their script.

1. The speaker must select a single, non-original, published selection of literature from the genre of plays, prose, or poetry curated for ZSDA.
2. Topics and content must be appropriate for all audiences, including younger students. Gratuitous vulgarity such as obscene, or profane language or gestures is not allowed. Humor is permitted but must be in good taste.
3. The title and author of the selection of literature must be introduced near the beginning of the piece. Competitors will receive a multiple point penalty for failure to identify the title and author.
4. No audio or visual aids, props, or costumes are allowed. The term “visual aids” refers to items or audience members used to enhance the speech. A costume refers to a part or all of the speaker’s attire that is worn to enhance the speech.
5. Only feet are permitted to touch the floor at any time. Acrobatics are not allowed.
6. The script must be memorized. No written scripts or notes may be referred to in competition rounds. Competitors will receive a multiple point penalty for use of a written script or notes in competition.
7. Time limit: Maximum speaking time is six (6) minutes; no minimum time. Judges may use discretion when weighing time-limit violations into their ranking. However, the speaker should not be penalized for excessive audience laughter, which may occasionally extend the time of a speech.
8. The judge will start the timer when the competitor begins speaking and will stop the timer when the competitor finishes. No hand signals will be given.