



## DUO INTERPRETATION

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Duo interpretation is the interpretation by two participants of a single selection of humorous or serious literature from any genre or a selection that combines genres (e.g. drama and prose). The art of interpretation is to be regarded as recreating believable characters in the story presented. Presentation must be without the use of physical objects or costumes.

In Duo Interpretation each of the two performers may play one or more characters, so long as performance responsibility in the cutting remains as balanced as possible. Either or both of the performers may also present narration. During the presentation, the team must name the author and material source from which the cutting was made. Original material may be for the purpose of transition only. The selection should be judged for its appropriateness as contest material and suitability to the particular contestant using it.

Contestants must take the original script or a photocopy of the proper pages from the original script to all rounds and must have the selection available for a judge to review.

In duo interpretation, a school may add or delete members between levels of competition (between the local and district tournament, between the district and regional tournament, and between the regional and state tournament). At least one member of the original duo at the regional level must be part of the duo at all subsequent levels of participation.

Interpreters will generally wish to begin with some remarks introducing the plot, scene, author, and/or characters; such information may also be used as transitional material. Introductory or transitional material is included in the time limits and may include singing, humming, or other creative approaches.

The suggested time limit for duo interpretation in high school is seven to ten minutes, while the suggested time limit for duo interpretation in middle level events is five to eight minutes. Presentations that do not conform to the suggested time parameters may be penalized at the discretion of the judge. Penalties are not mandatory for timing irregularities.

### **BASIS OF DECISION**

Suitability of Selection: Selections should reflect a reasonable standard of literature that is appropriate for secondary school competition. The selections should be adapted to the age, temperament, and capabilities of the interpreter. The selection(s) should be of the type that shows insight into human nature and creates an impact on the listener. Editing is permitted, but the author's intent must be preserved. The rewriting of a selection to change the gender of the primary characters is inconsistent with the author's intent and thus is not permitted. In interpretation events, the use of good literature should be noted favorably, and a selection devoid of literary merit should be scored accordingly.

Platform Conduct: The interpreter(s) may gesture and move around the platform as necessary. Good interpretation requires total physical, vocal, and emotional involvement. Interpreters should identify with the characters in the scene being presented. The degree of physical expression depends on the literature. The presentation should not be dominated by choreography, and movement should be appropriate to the theme of the presentation. A possible exception to this guideline may occur when the characterization requires the use of sign language.

In duo interpretation, direct eye contact and touching are prohibited. Accidental bumping or eye contact that is corrected quickly should not disqualify students from competition. Direct eye contact with the audience is at the discretion of the performers.

The use of a manuscript or notes is optional. NO hand props, decorative scripts, lighting, scenery, readers' stands, benches, platforms, or risers are acceptable. Contestants may sit and/or stand. **Any physical manipulation using a chair/stool/blox during a round is allowable and permissible.**



Oral Presentation: Original characterizations are encouraged. Only sound created by the voice and the body of the interpreter is allowed. Mechanical aids or instruments are not permitted. Singing, humming, and/or whistling must be appropriate to the theme of the presentation. Sound effects or singing should heighten and develop the literature. The interpreters should show genuine appreciation of the presentation and demonstrate imaginative insight into its mood and meaning. Vocal expression should communicate the relationships between ideas and should be clear and audible.

Clothing: Street attire that suggests mood and character is permissible. Costumes that are unique to the stage, such as period dress and robes, are prohibited.

**OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR DUO INTERPRETATION**

Timing: Each presentation must be timed. Timing starts when the presentation of the contestant begins. Either the judge or an alternate timekeeper, under the supervision of the judge, is responsible for using a stopwatch and for displaying time cards that are clearly visible to the contestants unless the performers prefer not to have visual timing. The number showing on the card indicates the amount of time remaining. Judges should give an oral report of the actual time at the completion of each performance. Timing must be indicated on the ballot as well as on the contestants' critique sheets.

The time limit for duo interpretation in high school is seven minutes to ten minutes; in middle level events it is five minutes to eight minutes.

Contestant Evaluation: The ballot must be completely filled out and needs to include the last name of each member of the duo and the duo code, the author, the rank, the percentage score, and the time of the presentation. Judges are to sign their ballots.

Each judge shall rank the participants as 1,2,3, according to the relative merits of the contestants. All other contestants will receive a rank of 4. The judge shall also assign a percentage score ranging from 100 to 75. No two contestants can be given the same percentage.

All point scores must be assigned in whole integers. One hundred percent must be assigned to the best contestant with the points for all other contestants in the range of 99-75. The assignment of a score between 75-79 should be reserved for special circumstances; such as when a contestant fails to complete his or her presentation, exhibits inappropriate behavior, or performs highly inappropriate material.

Critique sheets and ballots must be given to the tournament director or returned to the tabulation room at the conclusion of each round.

**Note: As of August 2015 - Contestants do NOT draw for order. Use the order as listed on the schematic.**

Order	Contestant	Code	Selection(s)	Author(s)	Time	Rank	%
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							

Round \_\_\_ Section \_\_\_ Judge \_\_\_\_\_ Code \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_