



## MULTIPLE INTERPRETATION

Multiple interpretation is the performance of a humorous or serious literary selection with three to eight participants in front of, but not necessarily facing, the audience at all times. The event is designed to encourage the analysis and performance of literature of literary merit. The presentation consists of a single selection of prose, poetry, or drama, or any combination of the genres. Multiple material must alternate on an annual basis. For 2015-16 multiple may be of any genre, excluding musical theater/musical film. For 2016-2017 multiple may consist of any genre including musical theater/musical film. Multiples will be identified at tournaments by the appropriate code and the title of the presentation of the group. Original material, which may be used only as an introductory or transitional device, may not dominate the presentation in terms of time or portion of the script, and it must enhance the literature presented.

A group must not use material that any member of the multiple and/or the group as a whole have used in competition in any previous year, nor may the multiple use a selection from the same piece of literature any individual in the group has used in a previous year. A cutting from other literature written by the same author is acceptable. Selections used at the Michigan Speech Coaches Incorporated spring tournament last year may be presented without sanction during the current individual events season.

A school may add or delete members of Multiples between levels of competition (between the regional and state tournament). At least one member of the original multiple at the district level must participate in 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. This material is included in the time limits and may include singing, humming, or other creative approaches. The suggested time limit for multiple interpretation in high school is ten to fifteen minutes, while the suggested time limit for multiple interpretation in middle level events is eight to twelve 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. Contestants must take the script or a photocopy of the proper pages from the original script to all rounds.

## BASIS OF DECISION

Suitability of Selections: 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 interpreters. 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: Members of the multiple 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. The psychological relationships of characters and/or the emotional content of the literature should be clear and effectively demonstrated in the arrangement of the group. The grouping of the performers should pictorially represent the literature. Focal points should be used during representations of conversations between and among performers. A possible exception to this guideline may occur when the characterization requires the use of sign language.

In multiple 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 permitted. Contestants may sit and/or stand. ONLY chairs, stools and blox are acceptable. **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. Sound effects, singing, humming, and/or whistling must be appropriate to the theme of the presentation and should help develop the literature.

Individual performances are as important as the performance of the ensemble. Unison or choral reading may be used, but the entire presentation may not consist of only choral reading. Unison reading, when used, should be an integral part of the presentation.

The interpreters should show genuine appreciation of the selection and demonstrate imaginative insight into its mood and meaning. Clear and audible vocal expression should communicate the relationships between ideas.

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 MULTIPLE INTERPRETATION**

Timing: Each presentation must be timed. Timing starts when the presentation of the contestant begins. Either the judge or a student timekeeper, under the supervision of the judge, is responsible for using a stopwatch and displaying time cards that are clearly visible to the contestant (unless the multiple prefers not to have cards). The number showing on the card should indicate 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 contestant's critique sheet.

The time limit for multiple interpretation in high school is ten minutes to fifteen minutes; in middle level events it is eight minutes to twelve minutes.

Contestant Evaluation: The ballot must be completely filled out and needs to include the group's name and 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							

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