

MIDDLE LEVEL ORIGINAL INTERPRETATION

(last updated 2013)

A participant in original interpretation will present his or her own compositions in prose, poetry or script form. A participant may use the same selection in all rounds or have more than one selection to alternate from round to round.

A presenter may use a script or may do all or portions of a composition from memory. No props, musical instruments, or pre-recorded music is allowed. Only chairs, cubes, or stools are acceptable. Singing is permissible.

The suggested time limit for original interpretation is two minutes to five minutes. Presentations, which do not conform to the suggested time parameters, may be penalized at the discretion of the judge. Penalties are not mandatory.

Interpreters may wish to begin with some remarks descriptive of the work, including themes, mood, setting, character, and/or information about the motivation for the composition. Introductory or transitional material is included in the time limits and may include singing, humming, or other creative approaches at the discretion of the participant.

The use of materials written by other authors, other than for introductory or transitional segments, will result in the disqualification of the contestant. In addition, since the intent of the event is to highlight original material, use of external sources for introductory or transitional presentations should be minimal.

Either humorous or serious compositions are acceptable. A contestant may not use a selection from a composition the individual has used in a prior year, except selections used at the Michigan Speech Coaches, Incorporated spring tournament in the previous year may be repeated. The original script, or a photocopy of the original script, must be taken by the contestant to all rounds of competition and be available for a judge to review.

Good interpretation requires total physical, vocal, and emotional involvement and identification with the characters and scene being presented. As in any type of performance, The degree of emotion depends on the written material. Words serve as the means of presenting to the listener's mind and senses the total experience inherent in the composition. The presentation should involve an audience on an imaginative level rather than a literal one.

GUIDELINES FOR THE PLACEMENT OF PARTICIPANTS:

Composition: The selection of themes and the development of ideas is the province of the writer. There is no preclusion on language and/or content; however, the participant should be aware that audience response to ideas and language will vary.

Presentation: The use of a manuscript is optional. The participant will determine if, when, and how the manuscript is to be used.

A participant can sit and/or stand. Only chairs, cubes, and stools are acceptable. No hand props may be used. No musical instruments or pre-recorded music is permissible. Singing is acceptable.

The interpreter may move about the presentation area as necessary to represent the movements of the character (s), although there should be more emphasis on symbolic movement.

The writer should reveal a desire to share the composition with the audience. Vocal expression should communicate the meaning of the language of the selection, awareness of relationships between ideas, and discrimination of what is important from what is not. The voice of the interpreter should be clearly audible and responsive to the thought and feeling of the composition.

Timing: The suggested time limit for middle level original interpretation is *two to five minutes*. 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 contestant unless the performer prefers not to have visual timing. 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 contestants' critique sheets.

Contestant Evaluation: The ballot must be completed and must include the contestant's name and code, 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.

<u>Contestant</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Rank</u>
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Round _____ Section _____ Judge _____ School _____