

ORIGINAL INTERPRETATION

ORIGINAL POETRY INTERPRETATION. A contestant in original poetry will present their own composition(s). A participant may use the same selection in all rounds or have more than one selection to use from round to round. The suggested time limit for original poetry interpretation is two (2) minutes to four (4) minutes. See ballot.

ORIGINAL PROSE INTERPRETATION. A contestant in original prose will present their own composition(s). A participant may use the same selection in all rounds or have more than one selection to use from round to round. The suggested time limit for original prose interpretation is three (3) minutes to five (5) minutes. See Ballot.

ORIGINAL INTERP TOURNAMENT

The MIFA will conduct an annual Original Interpretation Tournament typically in January. Details will be in the invitation posted on the website. OI is often held in conjunction with an invitational IE tournament. Holding both tournaments at the same site provides additional competitive opportunities for individuals. There is no limit on the number of contestants a school may enter. A contestant may participate in both OI and the invitational IE tournaments with the payment of the appropriate registration fees.

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 Association spring tournament last year may be repeated.

EVENTS Each contestant will have the option to participate in original poetry interpretation, original prose interpretation or both. A contestant must present only their own original compositions.

The contestant 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, BLOX, or stools are acceptable. Introductory and/or transitional material is included in the time limits and may include singing, humming, or other creative approaches.

JUDGING

It is unnecessary for a judge at the Original Interpretation Tournament to hold MIFA Individual Events Judge Certification. However, judges should be familiar with basic guidelines for the events and meet other criteria for MIFA adjudication.

Hired judges may be available per the invitation details.

SCHEMATIC & ADVANCEMENT

For preliminary rounds contestants are divided into sections with a maximum of seven (7) students each. The process for determining speaking order within the section (either randomly determined by the tabulation software or by draw with each round) will be announced at the general meeting/judges meeting. A semifinal round would have twelve (12) contestants, while each final round will have six (6) contestants, unless there are ties. The twelve contestants with the lowest total ranks for all preliminary rounds will advance to the semifinal round in each event. Ties will be broken through percentage point totals. The same procedures will determine the six (6) participants for the final round of each event.

There will be a minimum of one (1) judge per preliminary round, with a minimum of two (2) judges for each elimination round. Judges will make appropriate written comments, with composition and presentation serving as the dominant criteria for adjudication.

Prior to the tournament, the Tournament Director will determine contestant codes to minimize judge conflicts. The contestant code will be used for the duration of the tournament. Although the Tournament Director will make effort to avoid it, contestants from the same school may be in the same section for an event.

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.

AWARDS There will be awards for first (1st) through sixth (6th) place in each event. Total ranks will determine the placement of a participant in the final round; however, in case of a tie in total ranks, with two (2) or more judges in the final round, the following priority order in criteria will be used to break the tie.

1. Total ranks in the final round;
2. Preferential ranking of the final round ranks;
3. Total percentages in the final round; or
4. Total percentages in all rounds.

FEES As per the tournament invitation and/or the current fee schedule on www.themifa.org website.

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 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.

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.