

ARTICLE XI: Interpretive Reading - Poetry

Section 1. Entries. Each school will be entitled to enter one to three contestants in the District Contest.

Section 2. Selections/Materials. Each contestant will present one or more Poetry selections in a single performance. A member school will not use material in this area which is identical to that used in any other individual event.

Section 3. Length. The selection or selections will be limited to six minutes including both comment and reading.

Section 4. Preparation and Presentation.

Clause 1. Each contestant will choose their own selection prior to the contest and will read from their own copy of the book or manuscript.

Clause 2. Performer must have script as an aid, but may have the presentation memorized. Familiarity with the script is encouraged to allow visualization, development of character, vocal, facial, and bodily tension.

Clause 3. If a contestant receives a Division I Rating in the District Contest, they may use the same poetry selection for the State Contest.

Clause 4. The contestants may use an introduction with remarks pertinent to the material and the occasion and may make necessary and appropriate comments as they proceed. The author's style or form may be identified for the listener. Such comments will count in the time limit of the selection.

Section 5. Timing. The Local Manager will appoint a timekeeper who will use a timing device and indicate with timing cards the time as it elapses. At the end of the first minute of the speech, a five will be held up, at the end of the second minute, a four will be held up and so on down the scale of numbers - 3, 2, 1, 1/2 and 0. At the end of six minutes, the timer will rise and say STOP. The speaker must stop at once or be subject to the penalty of disqualification. (Article III, Section 6, By-Laws.)

Section 6. Judging. In rating the contestant, the judges will be instructed to observe the following criteria: projection of thought, projection of emotion, arrangement of material, control of bodily activity, rhythm, pronunciation and voice interpretation.

CASEBOOK**Questions - Answers**

1. Q. To what degree may bodily action be used?
A. Natural and/or appropriate gestures, facial expression, head movement, bodily tension and oratorical steps may be used to underscore the vocal interpretation of the literature presented. However, participants are reminded that this is an interpretive category, not an acting category.
2. Q. What procedure is best to follow to introduce prose or poetry?
A. The reader may introduce the Prose or Poetry by indicating such items as the author's intent, universality of theme or establishment of mood. These remarks should be delivered in a conversational manner. Reading these remarks or the absence of an introduction may invite criticism from the judge(s) and/or a lower rating.
3. Q. Is it permissible for the reader to sing within the selection?
A. Yes, although it should be used with discretion.
4. Q. Is a change of voice allowed for different characters?
A. Yes.
5. Q. May students use original material written by themselves or other students?
A. Yes.
6. Q. May the use of focus and/or visual placement of characters be used in Prose/Poetry/Literary Program?
A. Yes.
7. Q. Must gestures be incorporated in PR/PO/LP program?
A. No. Movement and gestures are allowed, but not required. Absence or presence of gestures and/or movement should not invite a lower rating.
8. Q. When speaking as a narrator, may a performer use a dialect which is sustained throughout the piece?
A. Yes.
9. Q. Must poetry rhyme and have meter?
A. No, free verse and spoken word are forms of poetry which does not have rhyme or meter. The performer may identify the material as free verse or spoken word in introductory comments.
10. Q. May props and/or visual aids be used?
A. No, if using a book or notebook, it must have a plain cover.
11. Q. Must the introduction come first?
A. No, the introduction can follow a preview/teaser.
12. Q. What are oratorical steps?
A. Oratorical steps are steps used to emphasize a point of change or difference in the material or to create emphasis.