

Judge Instructions - *Poetry Interpretation*

Description of Event

The competitor has a maximum of 10 minutes to present a cutting of a published poem or poems. The selection(s) may be humorous or dramatic in nature. The competitor may use any type of poetry (rhyming, free verse, etc.) Content shall not contradict biblical principles but does not have to be spiritual in nature. Use of a forensic notebook is required. A maximum of 60 seconds is permitted toward the beginning of the presentation for original words required to introduce the piece. Title(s) and author(s) must be clearly stated in this memorized introduction presented with the forensic notebook closed. A maximum of 45 seconds for a teaser is permitted before the introduction. Movement is restricted to center stage, with presentation space limited to a square no larger than one step in any direction from the center starting position.

Things to Look for in a Good Presentation

The competitor should select and arrange a well-written poem or poems with literary merit and bring the poetry to life for the audience. The presentation should develop a clear storyline or theme. It should come to a satisfying and conclusive end. The competitor should use distinct postures, gestures, movements, and voices to vividly portray the stages of emotion of each character or poem. The competitor should employ off-stage focus during character dialogue, if included in the literature. The introduction and/or teaser should grab the attention of the audience and create interest in the rest of the presentation. The use of the forensic notebook should be effortless and natural.

Violations to Watch For

- Lack of forensic notebook containing the script will result in a **two-rank** violation
- Failure to state the title(s) and author(s) during the introduction will result in a **one-rank** violation
- Exceeding the time limit will result in a **one-rank** violation

Master Ballot Instructions

1. On the Master Ballot (the top page of the ballot pack), fill in the original rank of each competitor next to their name in the Rank column.
2. *To figure the original rank, give the competitor with the highest number of points, 1st place; the second highest number of points, 2nd place; and so on. It is possible to have a tie in points between competitors on individual ballots, however, the tie MUST be broken when figuring the rank.*
3. In the Violation(s) box, write the name of each competitor who had one or more violations. Write the total number of violations next to his/her name.
4. Circle the final rank on the top three individual ballots ONLY if there were NO violations for all competitors in the round. Do not circle any ranks if the round included any violations. Proceed to ballot check for review of your ballots. Ballot check staff will apply violations and final ranks.