

## **Open Interpretation Rules**

Open Interpretation is a literary interpretation event in which the competitor chooses a published or self-authored piece of literature, cuts the work into a presentation, acts out all the roles, and directs all the action. Open Interpretation provides substantial freedom of imagination to competitors. Without sets, props or costumes available, competitors use body language, facial expressions, and voice to create rich characters and settings. Open Interpretation gives competitors the opportunity to present classic literature and works with high literary merit in a dynamic, entertaining way. Open Interpretation Speeches may be dramatic or humorous in tone.

## **Open Interpretation Speech Rules**

1. Competitors may speak for up to 10 minutes. There are 15 seconds of grace time. Competitors who go over the 15 seconds of grace time will receive time penalties.
2. If competitors choose to include singing, it should be motivated by the original source. Up to 150 words may be sung in total in the speech.
3. Dancing should be limited in nature and make sense with the original source material.
4. Sound effects are allowed.
5. One published or self-authored work must be used as the source material for each speech.
6. An introduction must be presented. It must be delivered at the beginning of the speech and may be after a short teaser section. The introduction must include the title and author of the literature selection.
7. A conclusion may also be used. If used, the conclusion must be the final words of the speech.
8. The introduction and conclusion combined may be up to 150 words, not including the title and author of the literature selection. The introduction and conclusion must be written by the competitor(s). Any sources referenced in the introduction or conclusion must be acknowledged verbally, including the literature selection.

## **Open Interpretation Literature Cutting Rules**

1. The original source may be cut to fit the time limit.
2. It is permissible to cut phrases from several sentences and string them together, but it is not permissible to string together individual words from separate sentences to create original sentences. Single words may only be used for transitions or character identification.
3. Repeating an author's words is permitted even when the author does not do so.
4. Lines may be reassigned to any other existing character in the work. If that necessitates changing an author's words for pronoun substitution, verb tense, or subject-verb agreement, those changes are allowed.

# Open Interpretation Ballot

**American Speech and Debate Association's mission** is to prepare the next generation of leaders by providing competitive speech and debate events where youth learn to communicate their ideas, beliefs and values effectively while maintaining respect for differing views.

To accomplish this mission, ASDA:

- Embraces those values found in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution such as freedom of speech and religion.
- Cultivates an atmosphere of collaboration and congeniality where freedom of conscience in all religious beliefs and political stances is honored.
- Welcomes youth from all learning environments.

Speaker :

Topic :

Speech Length :

Script Use? **Yes** **No**

Judge :

Round :

Room :

## Speaker Rank

For tournament placement, please rank the competitors in the room based on which speech you preferred with 1st as your favorite.

1st

2nd

3rd

4th

5th

6th

7th

8th

## Competitor Feedback

### Main Idea

*Compared to others in the room:*

Unacceptable

Fair

Good

Excellent

Superior

What is interesting or important about the main idea? You might comment on:

- Theme appeals to wide audience and relevant over time
- Theme developed through humor or other emotion
- Interest level of literature selection

### Script

*Compared to others in the room:*

Unacceptable

Fair

Good

Excellent

Superior

How did the script enhance the speech? You might comment on:

- Artful elements such as symbols, foreshadowing, imagery, etc.
- Rising action, conflict and resolution
- Choice of characters
- Ease of following the story line

### Character Acting

*Compared to others in the room:*

Unacceptable

Fair

Good

Excellent

Superior

In what ways did the speaker's voice capture your attention? You might comment on:

- Differentiation of characters through accent, volume, rate or pitch, etc.
- Believability of character bearing, mannerisms or facial expressions, etc.
- Transitions between characters
- Consistency of the portrayal of characters throughout

### Scene Development

*Compared to others in the room:*

Unacceptable

Fair

Good

Excellent

Superior

What made the speech interesting to watch? You might comment on:

- Believability of scene development
- Staging
- Creation of imaginary props
- Transition between scenes

### Impact

*Compared to others in the room:*

Unacceptable

Fair

Good

Excellent

Superior

Does the speech develop rapport and align with ASDA mission? You might comment on:

- Ability to use tact with opinion topics if applicable
- Use of humor, sympathy or other feelings
- Development of rapport with audience
- Alignment with ASDA mission

# Open Interpretation Reference Guide

ASDA Core Values of Conversational, Collaborative, Congenial should be evident in all events	Unacceptable <i>Well below expectations of ASDA competitors</i>	Fair <i>Growth necessary to successfully compete with others in this room</i>	Good <i>Prepared, competent competitor compared to others in this room</i>	Excellent <i>Top half of room; polished, well-spoken competitor compared to others in this room</i>	Superior <i>Exceeding other competitors in this room in preparation, polish and presentation</i>
<b>Main Idea</b> <i>Speaker has something interesting or important to say</i>	Inappropriate or offensive topic, lack of preparation	Literature selection has limited appeal or theme needs more development	Story and theme developed enough to enjoy the speech, could use wider appeal or relevance	Interesting or important story of literary merit that clearly develops theme through humor or other emotion	Speech stands out in its appeal to a wide audience and relevance over time and shows advanced theme development
<b>Script</b> <i>Story is organized and effective</i>	Use of plagiarism or offensive language, disregard for content rules	Story line hard to follow or features unclear character choices	Literature selection is cut well enough to follow, but scenes or characters may need balance or development, or speech might lack conflict and resolution	Use of artful elements from literature selection such as symbols, foreshadowing or imagery; plot is clear; interesting choice of characters	Excellent retelling incorporating artful features and powerful development of the plot
<b>Character Acting</b> <i>Characters capture the audience's attention</i>	Inappropriate dress or disrespectful, unkind or offensive attitude, language, or tone of voice	Characters are inconsistently portrayed or hard to distinguish, or speech is hard to hear	Clearly distinguished characters most of the time, and character transitions move the speech along	Smooth transitions and consistent characters that are clearly distinguished by vocal qualities, bearing and manner	Superior portrayal of believable, distinct characters; speech features advanced vocal and physical techniques and transitions
<b>Scene Development</b> <i>Speaker's visual performance engages the audience's attention</i>	Disrespectful, unkind or offensive gestures, movements or posture	Speech has confusing scenes or transitions	Creative staging, good transitions, but speaker might appear nervous	Smooth transitions and meaningful creation of scenes and imaginary props	Extremely believable scenes and imaginary props, magical transitions
<b>Impact</b> <i>Speaker develops a rapport with the audience and aligns with the mission of ASDA</i>	Rude to the audience, blatant disregard of the ASDA mission	Audience has a hard time relating to the speech or speech contradicts ASDA mission	Impact is meaningful according to the ASDA mission, somewhat developed rapport	Memorable speech with connection to audience through humor or other emotion, aligns with the ASDA mission	Excellent rapport, sensitive treatment of topic, aligns with and promotes ASDA mission

*Note: Speakers are ranked according to judge preference rather than a prescribed standard of excellence. When considering competitor feedback, the highest standard for the room is the comparison between the competitors rather than an objective standard. Because many great speeches share similar qualities, this reference guide is provided as a means of helping you to articulate your feedback.*