Humorous Interpretation Rules

Description: *The Humorous Interpretation is an original rendition by the competitor of a relatable story from a single published work of literature using humor to connect with the audience. Stand-up comedy or telling a series of jokes without a corresponding plot is not Humorous Interpretation.*

Goal: *To select and analyze literature, then bring it to life through the creative use of voice, movement, and facial expression. The story should be conveyed humorously using plot, character development and comedic timing.*

Humorous Interpretation Preparation Rules:

1. Interpretive literature may come from a variety of genres including plays, prose, or poetry, but the selection must be from a single **published** work, and it may not be authored by the competitor. The selection must be in compliance with the **Stoa Publication Guidelines**.
2. The following unpublished works are not permitted: blogs and media transcripts (i.e. movie scripts and audio or video recordings that are not published in written form by the owner). See the **Stoa Publication Guidelines**.
3. The competitor must create a completely original interpretation of literature. Competitors may not copy the cutting and/or blocking of a previous speech and/or video. See the **Stoa Plagiarism Policy.** See the **Stoa Plagiarism Policy.**
4. The literature should be edited to fit the time limit.
5. A maximum of 150 words may be added for any purpose including but not limited to introductions and transitions. Joining together disconnected words from the source to create new thoughts or ideas are counted as added words.
6. The competitor may quote material external to the piece in the introduction only and must cite the source verbally. This material must be counted as part of the 150 added words.
7. When identifying the source material, the following are not considered added words: the title, the author(s), and the words "by" and "and".
8. Changes to pronouns, verb tenses, and character names are allowed and not counted as added words. The title and author are not counted as added words.
9. Dialogue from one character may be given to another character.
10. A competitor may use an interpretive selection in multiple leagues during any given competitive season. The selection may be entered in only one event per tournament (e.g., either Humorous or Open but not both).
11. Once the competitor uses a selection (book, play, short story, etc.) in any competition in any venue, that competitor may not reuse any part of the published work in subsequent years of competition. The Bible is an exception to this rule.
12. The competitor may enter only one interpretive selection per event.
13. The competitor must provide a script and scanned/photocopied pages used from the original source at each tournament. See the **Script Submission Form.** Note: Electronic Script Submission is required at NITOC.

Humorous Interpretation Presentation Rules:

1. The competitor must identify the title and author near the beginning of the piece. The competitor will receive a one (1) rank penalty for failure to cite the source.
2. Competitors may not receive or access any verbal, non-verbal, electronic, and/or written communication, nor any form of visual assistance during delivery of the speech.
3. No props, audio, or visual aids may be used.
4. Only feet are permitted to touch the floor at any time.
5. Gratuitous vulgarity is strictly prohibited.
6. This is a speech event, but some singing and dancing are permitted as appropriate to the piece.
7. **The speech must be memorized and delivered as written in the script.** The competitor will receive a two (2) rank penalty for use of a written script or notes in competition.
8. The timepiece must be **facing toward the competitor** and **counting up**.
9. The maximum speaking time is ten (10) minutes, including audience laughter. There is no minimum time limit.
10. Competitors will receive a one (1) rank penalty for going over time by 15 seconds or more.

Speaking Time – Ten (10) Minutes