

# Interp in a Box Rules

**Description:** *The Interp in a Box is an original rendition by the competitor of a relatable story from a single published work of literature with a focus on plot and character development which captivates and moves the audience, using props to emphasize the interpretation. The presentation may range from dramatic to humorous genres; however, stand-up comedy or telling a series of jokes without a corresponding plot is not an interpretation.*

**Goal:** *To select and analyze literature then bring it to life through the creative use of voice, movement, facial expression, and physical props.*

## Interp in a Box 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 The following unpublished works are not permitted: blogs and media transcripts (i.e., movie scripts and audio or video recordings that are not published in written form by the owner).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**.
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 is 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.
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 Dramatic 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. Any copyrighted images used as props must also be cited on a Citation Page and submitted with the script but need not be cited verbally or parenthetically. See the **Script Submission Form**. Note: Electronic Script Submission is required at NITOC.

## Interp in a Box 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. Props must be used and supplied by the competitor and fit within a lidded container no larger than 18”x15”x11”. Any table or chair that the student would like to utilize must be collapsible and fit in the lidded box.
4. All props must be contained in the box with the lid on it when the timer starts and before the timer stops.
5. No audio and/or electronic media may be used.
6. The following are prohibited from use as props: weapons (real, fake, or toy), explosives, incendiary devices, liquids, art mediums, chemicals, live animals, and/or facility/tournament furniture.
7. The presentation area must be left in the same condition as it was prior to the speech.
8. Nothing may be distributed or offered to the judges or audience members.
9. Audience members and/or judges may not be aids or active participants in the speech.
10. Gratuitous vulgarity is strictly prohibited.
11. This is a speech event, but some singing and dancing are permitted as appropriate to the piece.
12. **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.
13. The timepiece must be **facing toward the competitor** and **counting up**.
14. The maximum speaking time is ten (10) minutes, including audience reaction. The timer should not stop until all the props are returned to the box and the lid is replaced. There is no minimum time limit.
15. Competitors will receive a one (1) rank penalty for going over time by 15 seconds or more.

## Speaking Time – Ten (10) Minutes