

CHOOSING AN ORAL INTERPRETATION PIECE

Prose: a selection from a short story, novel, essay --not from a play

Poetry: a selection from one poem or series of poems --same theme OR same author

-Props cannot be used, the only thing you may have in your hand is a book or script

-Time Limit at Club Days is 10 minutes for Senior, 5 minutes for Junior/Intermediate

SELECTION OF MATERIAL:

-Choose something you **know, like and understand**

-Material that has **strong sensory images** --you want your audience to see, feel, and smell what you are describing

-**Strong theme or message**

-**Unique** --not something your audience has heard many times

VOCAL PRESENTATION:

Vocal Energy- you must capture and keep the audience's attention

Excellent Diction- the audience must understand every word

Vocal Emphasis- this is essential for the audience to understand the point of the piece

Separate Voice for Each Character- each person who speaks must sound different

Direct, Personal Sound- you must present this to the audience in a way that speaks to them, this is NOT a reading

PHYSICAL PRESENTATION:

Facial Expression- your face must reflect the emotions of the selection

Gestures- you must use your free hand (the one not holding the script) to gesture for emphasis, this is why a memorized speech is better in most ways

Use of Entire Body to Communicate Emotion- use body tension, posture and stance to show emotion

Eye Contact- you MUST look at each member of the audience as you perform. ENGAGE them!!!

INTRODUCTION:

Establish something interesting about your selection

Provide necessary background for us to understand the piece

Establish a theme or moral

Name the selection and the author

INTRO EXAMPLE:

****This was my introduction for my Top Purple Oral Interp. from The Hunger Games****

The Hunger Games is the story of Katniss Everdeen. In Panem, or futuristic, war-torn America, there are 12 districts. Every year 2 teenagers, or tributes, are chosen at random to fight to the death in an arena. The winner keeps their life and their District is fed for a year. Losing Districts receive nothing. Katniss has volunteered to go to the Hunger Games in order to spare her sister. While in the arena, Katniss befriends a young girl named Rue. The Hunger Games, by Suzanne Collins.