Humorous Interp

Humorous Interpretation (HI), is an individual event where the student memorizes and delivers a humorous selection. The piece chosen for use in Humorous Interpretation is taken from a single source. The source may include a choice of published printed novels, short stories, plays, poems, and motion picture screenplays.

The student should select from a work that is appropriate for the contestant’s personality and strengths. In performing the piece, the contestant attempts to convey orally the humor of the literature through narration and characterization. Students do well at HI by working to perfect the flow, function and humor of the interpretation. Students use effective body language, character changes, and voice manipulation to convey the characters and enhance the humor. Students improve in their delivery through practice and better understanding of all of the characters and their relationships.

Rules of Humorous Interpretation

The selected literature must be humorous in nature.

Coaches and/or students must have the original source material available to the tournament director upon request. Copies are acceptable. Failure to have a copy of the source available upon request will result in the disqualification of the student in one round.

To qualify for awards, the speaker’s presentation must be memorized and without the use of props or costumes, unless otherwise set in the tournament rules.

The participant may not use a selectioin from the identical source that he or she used in a prior event, either in the current school year or past years. During a particular tournament, the same selection must be used throughout the duration thereof, but may not be used for a different event at the same tournament.

An introduction is required in which the performer states the author’s name and the work’s title. The speaker gives any other necessary information, and uses a few words to set the tone for the humorous interpretation. Usually, the introduction is given after a minute or so of the piece has been delivered, at a natural break-point.

For the purpose of continuity of the cutting from a large piece of literature, it may be necessary for transitions to be added to the cutting. However, at no time may the cutting change gender of any character or change the original intent of the author’s work.

The time limit is 10 minutes with a 30 second grace period.

Tips for success in HI:

* All pops, or character transitions, are to be smooth, quick, and fluid
* Interpretation is most of what you will be ranked by, so know the plot, the characters, the theme, and everything about the work
* All gestures, stances, facials, vocals/intonations need to support that character (and needs to be unique to that particular character), help tell story, and be clear
* Diction is important
* No moving—you must stand in one place, but are allowed to change stance for different characters
* Eye contact is a must