

Communications Guide



Oral Interpretations

Oral interpretations differ from the other types of presentations in that you do not use original material. Instead, you “interpret” selections from other sources, such as plays, poetry, magazines, etc.

Humorous & Dramatic

Dramatic and humorous interpretations are the oral interpretations of selections that contain 50% or more dialogue between two or more characters. The selection is taken from a printed, published source and may be from plays, verse plays, teleplays, screenplays, or other works.

The selection is presented from memory or the member may use notes. No props may be used when presenting the readings.

When preparing for the presentation, you should choose a selection that lets you show emotion. You should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the piece by your communication of what the author meant, the relationship of your selection to the entire piece, and the specific meanings of the piece you select. Your voice should reveal the meaning of the selection, as should any bodily movement. The overall presentation should be real and genuine, not artificial and mechanical. You should pay attention to good pronunciation and articulation, adequate volume, and good voice quality.

Oratorical Declamation

Oratorical declamation is the oral interpretation of persuasive or inspirational material of literary merit, such as editorials, essays, speeches, etc., originally prepared by another person. The speech is given from memory.

You should sound familiar with the material when you present it. You should gain direct eye contact with the audience. Your voice should be clear and direct with adequate volume.

Prose Reading

Prose reading is the oral interpretation of literature, which may include cuttings from novels, short stories, biographies, nonfiction, letters, and diaries. The cuttings should contain less than 50% dialogue.

You should gain eye contact with your audience and your voice should be clear and direct with adequate volume. The total presentation should be natural and interesting.

Verse Reading

Your program should consist of one or more poems. Selections may come from any source deemed appropriate, but must come from printed, published sources.

Score Card	Very	Needs	
	Good	Improvement	Much
		Some	
Understanding of Selection			
Intense Characterization			
Presentation Techniques			
Voice Quality			
Gesture/Body			
Emotion & Mood			
Audience Appeal			

Time requirement: 4-6 minutes

