

Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
10 min. w/ 30 sec. grace period

**NATIONAL CATHOLIC FORENSIC LEAGUE**  
**Critique Sheet for**  
**ORAL INTERPRETATION OF LITERATURE**

Do Not Write in this Space

Round \_\_\_\_\_ Room \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Code \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

Selection Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Judge's Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge's School /League: \_\_\_\_\_

**Criteria for judging:**

- **Introduction:** The introduction must name the work and author, provide necessary background information and establish the mood. If using a teaser, or if lines from the selection are used in the introduction, the speakers must adhere to the rules of the event.
- **Projection of Literature:** The interpreter should demonstrate a clear understanding of the literature and project its meaning, message and tone. The speaker should capture and convey the plot and/or development. Imagery should be carefully colored so as to promote audience understanding and appreciation. In a presentation of a collection, there should be a unity to the program as a whole, made clear by the introduction and transitional material. Consideration should be given to the literary merit of the selection.
- **Narrator/Character Creation:** The narrator should be believable and conversational. The narrator should be able to lead the audience through the details of the literature, keeping a consistent and clear attitude toward people, objects and events within the literature. In collections, the interpreter should develop and maintain unique and distinct narrative voices for each selection within the program. If they are utilized, character voices should be distinctive, consistent and appropriate to the character. The interpreter should be able to demonstrate the characters' feelings and thoughts through the use of vocal inflections, facial expressions including visualization, and appropriate intensity.
- **Visualization:** The interpreter should help the audience to *see* the particular world of the narrator. The interpreter should establish a strong sense of environment. The interpreter should be able to see and replay the events described or recalled in the literature. The interpreter should use facial expressions and gestures appropriately to bring the script to life.
- **Vocal Variety:** The interpreter should appropriately vary pitch, volume, rate, and intensity to convey the various moods and messages in the literature. Appropriate words should be stressed for clarity and understanding. The interpreter should appropriately play with sound devices such as alliteration, and attend to the sound and meaning of every word. For poetry, the interpreter should capture and effectively vary existing poetic rhythm, making use of rhyme when necessary and avoiding it when not.
- **Audience and Script Contact:** The interpreter should invite the audience into the presentation, directing eye contact and expressing his or her feelings to individual audience members when appropriate and necessary and consulting the script when it is not. The interpreter should focus away from the audience and the script effectively during moments of internal and private thoughts. There should be a natural balance between the audience and script where one does not take precedence over the other. The interpreter should stay in the moment, with facial expression and emotional consistency, when making contact with the manuscript.
- **Overall Effect:** The overall performance should build to various moments and have a climax. The performance should be easy to follow and complete. The performance should display another world outside of the performance space.

**PLEASE USE THE REVERSE TO COMMENT ON POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE PERFORMANCE, AND TO PROVIDE SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS. BE CERTAIN TO INCLUDE JUSTIFICATION FOR YOUR RANKING.**