

ORIGINAL INTERPRETATION TOURNAMENT

The MIFA will conduct an Original Interpretation Tournament during the first semester. There is no limit on the number of contestants a school may enter. The selection of the participants for an individual school is the decision of the director of the program at the school.

A presenter may use a script or may do all or portions of a composition from memory. No props, musical instruments, or pre-recorded music is allowed. Chairs or stools are acceptable. Singing is permissible.

EVENTS

Each contestant will have the option to participate in either original poetry interpretation or original prose interpretation. A participant must present only his or her own original compositions. A presenter may use the same selection in all rounds or have more than one selection to alternate from round to round.

A poetry selection or selections has a time limit of two to four minutes. A prose selection or selections has a time limit of three to five minutes. Violations of time guidelines, either with the contestant being too short or too long, may result, at the discretion of the judge, in the contestant being ineligible for a first place in the particular round.

Contestants will generally begin with some remarks explanatory of the content and/or characters of the composition or present appropriate information as transitional material.

The use of materials written by other authors, other than for transitional or introductory segments, will result in the disqualification of the contestant. Selections used at the Original Interpretation Tournament can not be used in other MIFA individual events activities, which require published literature or selections from writers other than the presenter, during the current school year.

JUDGING

One judge per school is necessary for each five entries or portion thereof. A judge should be familiar with basic guidelines for the events and meet other criteria for MIFA adjudication; however, it is unnecessary for an adjudicator for the Original Interpretation Tournament to hold MIFA Individual Events Judge Certification.

The MIFA will hire a judge for a school, if appropriate, for \$50.00. The designated judge of a school whose contestants are withdrawn within three days of the Original Interpretation Tournament is obligated to be at the tournament to fulfill any scheduled judging assignments.

SCHEMATIC

There will be a minimum of three preliminary rounds of competition and two elimination rounds for each event. In each event contestants are divided into sections. Seven students will be the maximum for any one section. Speaking order within the section is determined by draw.

There will be a minimum of one judge per preliminary round, and a minimum of three judges for each elimination round. Judges will make written comments, as appropriate, with composition and presentation serving as the dominant categories for adjudication.

To minimize judge conflicts, the Tournament Director in advance of the tournament will predetermine contestant codes. The contestant code will be used for the duration of the tournament. Section groupings (numbers) will change for each event, thereby changing the participants in the sections. Contestants from the same school may be in the same section for an event; however, given sufficient entries, the predetermined draw must preclude contestants from the same school being in the same section of the event. Participants from schools with large entries should expect some conflicts within sections.

Each student is ranked in order 1 - 4 in each event by judges. Because of the number of entries, it may be necessary for a judge to hear the same contestant more than once, but always with different contestants.

AWARDS

There will be awards for first through sixth place in each event. Contestants receiving a first place rank will become eligible for a certificate.

Total ranks will determine the placement of a participant. In the case of a tie in total ranks, with two or more judges in the final round, the sequential criteria to determine placement will be: total ranks in the final round, preferential ranking of the final round contestants, total percentages in the final round, or total percentages in all rounds.

To determine participants in the elimination rounds and to advance contestants to the final round, total ranks will be the primary criterion with ties broken through percentage point totals.

TIMING

The judge for each section of each event or a representative of the judge, properly instructed in MIFA timekeeping procedures, will serve as the timekeeper for the particular section. Timing is mandatory for all events following MIFA procedures [Individual Events: Timing]. Accordingly, judges should bring time cards and an appropriate timing mechanism, such as a stopwatch, to the contest.