

An amendment regarding interpretation publication and documentation  
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#### Duet Acting

This contest will enable the students to develop skills in techniques, ensemble, and oral interpretation common to all communications. TFA, understanding that final judgment must remain with the individual judge concerning effect on ranking, suggests that coaches encourage their students to avoid (1) literature that is devoid of literary merit, (2) literature that is in poor taste and, therefore, may be offensive because of language or subject matter.

1. Students may qualify in both Duet Acting and Duo Interp, and may compete at the state level in both events, but in this case, they may not perform the same selection for both categories and they may only compete in one other event in which they are qualified.
2. Selections used in Duet Acting shall be cuttings from a single source from a published **printed** novel, short story, play, poem or screenplay. **Published can mean traditionally printed, commercially available E-Books or PDFs, or material from approved websites as designated by the National Speech and Debate Association.** Coaches and/or students must provide the original source, including ISBN, **electronic resource, or approved website URL**, if one exists, to the tournament director upon request. **Coaches and/or students are solely responsible for providing any electronic device upon which electronic sources may be verified. No tournament is ever responsible for providing electronic devices or internet access for verification purposes.** A photocopy of the original print source is acceptable if the publication page is included. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification. **The list of NSDA approved websites may be found at <https://www.speechanddebate.org/approved-websites/>.**
3. Each year, specific documentation will be required by the Executive Council for entry into the State Tournament. During the online registration process, coaches will be required to provide the Duet title and ISBN number **or approved website URL**. The competitors’ original script and copied script is required to be checked at registration and must be available during the State Tournament.
  - a. A flat copy of the text with page numbers and all lines being performed highlighted is required.
  - b. A copy of the bibliographic information page **or front page of the NSDA approved website with visible URL** is required.
  - c. A cover sheet with title, author(s), ISBN number **or NSDA approved website URL**, date of publication, number of transitional phrases, student’s name, coach’s name and signature and the school name must be completed. The cover sheet form can be found online at [www.txfa.org](http://www.txfa.org)
  - d. The original script, **in printed or electronic form, and** highlighted **photocopy needs** to be available for the duration of the tournament.
4. The selections may be serious or humorous works.
5. Time for presentation shall not exceed twelve minutes with a thirty-second grace period. There is no minimum time required. Violation shall result in being ranked last in the round by the tab room when visible time signals have been given by the judge or by the authorized timekeeper. Without adding text

to the previously performed selection and only considering audience response, the contestant shall not be penalized for exceeding the time limit in all qualifying and state tournament elimination and final rounds. Overtime violators SHALL NOT be ranked first in the round by the judge. Any other penalty is at the discretion of the judge. Judges may consider audience reaction and its impact on official time before enforcing any overtime penalty. [as amended 10/15]

6. Each selection shall include an introduction which shall set the scene and mood and include the title and author of the work. Time for the introduction shall be included in the time limit. Violation shall result in an adverse effect on the team's ranking in the round.

7. The selection shall be memorized and presented without the use of physical objects (notes, props, hand props, or scenery) or costume. Two chairs will be allowed. The two chairs may be used to create atmosphere and environment. Violation shall result in being ranked last in the round.

8. No student may use the same selection at a tournament in more than one event, but may change events with the selection during a tournament season. No student can use the same selection in more than one tournament year. In addition, a student may not qualify for nor compete with the same selection at the state meet.

9. A student may compete with one partner from the same school and one selection at a given tournament.

10. Transitional phrases may be used in Duet Acting but must meet the following word requirements. Violation will result in disqualification.

a. No selection may use more than 100 total transitional words.

b. These words cannot be used to write new scenes to any piece of literature.

c. The 100 words cannot all be used in one particular location within the selection.

d. All transitional phrases must be written in the margin, by hand, on the **highlighted photocopy** for checking in case of protest. At TFA State, this will be used to check that the number does not exceed the 100 word limit.

e. Introductions do not count as part of the transitional phrases.

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## Duo Interpretation

This contest will enable the students to develop skills in techniques, ensemble, and oral interpretation common to all communications. TFA, understanding that final judgment must remain with the individual judge concerning effect on ranking, suggests that coaches encourage their students to avoid (1) literature that is devoid of literary merit, (2) literature that is in poor taste and, therefore, may be offensive because of language or subject matter.

1. Students may qualify in both Duet Acting and Duo Interp, and may compete at the state level in both events, but in this case, they may not perform the same selection for both categories and they may only compete in one other event in which they are qualified.
2. Selections used in Duo shall be cuttings from a single source from a published **printed** novel, short story, play, poem or screenplay. **Published can mean traditionally printed, commercially available E-Books or PDFs, or material from approved websites as designated by the National Speech and Debate Association.** Coaches and/or students must provide the original source, including ISBN, **electronic resource, or approved website URL**, if one exists to the tournament director upon request. **Coaches and/or students are solely responsible for providing any electronic device upon which electronic sources may be verified. No tournament is ever responsible for providing electronic devices or internet access for verification purposes.** A photocopy of the original print source is acceptable if the publication page is included. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification. **The list of NSDA approved websites may be found at <https://www.speechanddebate.org/approved-websites/>.**
3. Each year, specific documentation will be required by the Executive Council for entry into the State Tournament. During the online registration process, coaches will be required to provide the Duo title and ISBN number **or NSDA approved website URL**. The competitors' original script and copied script is required to be checked at registration and must be available at the State Tournament.
  - a. A flat copy of the text with page numbers and all lines being performed highlighted is required.
  - b. A copy of the bibliographic information page **or front page of the approved website with visible URL** is required.
  - c. A cover sheet with title, author(s), ISBN number **or NSDA approved website URL**, date of publication, number of transitional phrases, student's name, coach's name and signature and the school name must be completed. The cover sheet form can be found online at [www.txfa.org](http://www.txfa.org)
  - d. The original script, **in printed or electronic form, and** highlighted **photocopy** need to be available for the duration of the tournament.
4. The selections may be serious or humorous works.
5. Time for presentation shall not exceed ten minutes with a thirty-second grace period. There is no minimum time required. Violation shall result in being ranked last in the round by the tab room when visible time signals have been given by the judge or by the authorized timekeeper. Without adding text to the previously performed selection and only considering audience response, the contestant shall not be penalized for exceeding the time limit in all qualifying and state tournament elimination and final

rounds. Overtime violators SHALL NOT be ranked first in the round by the judge. Any other penalty is at the discretion of the judge. Judges may consider audience reaction and its impact on official time before enforcing any overtime penalty. [as amended 10/15]

6. Each selection shall include an introduction which shall set the scene and mood and include the title and author of the work. Time for the introduction shall be included in the time limit. Violation shall result in an adverse effect on the team's ranking in the round.

7. The selection shall be memorized and presented without the use of physical objects (script, props, hand props, or scenery) or costume. Violation shall result in being ranked last in the round.

8. In Duo Interpretation focus may be direct during the introduction and the performers may look at each other, but must be indirect (off-stage) during the performance itself.

9. Each of the two performers may play one or more characters, as long as performance responsibility in the cutting remains as balanced as possible. If the selection is prose or poetry and contains narration, either or 51 both of the performers may present the narration.

10. No student may use the same selection at a tournament in more than one event, but may change events with the selection during a tournament season. No student can use the same selection in more than one tournament year. In addition, a student may not qualify for nor compete with the same selection at the state meet.

11. A student may compete with only one partner from the same school and one selection at a given tournament.

12. Transitional phrases may be used in Duo Interpretation but must meet the following word requirements. Violation will result in disqualification.

a. No selection may use more than 100 total transitional words.

b. These words cannot be used to write new scenes to any piece of literature.

c. The 100 words cannot all be used in one particular location within the selection.

d. All transitional phrases must be written in the margin, by hand, on the **highlighted photocopy** for checking in case of protest. At TFA State, this will be used to check that the number does not exceed the 100 word limit.

e. Introductions do not count as part of the transitional phrases.

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## Dramatic Interpretation

This contest enables the student not only to develop skills common in all speech contests, but also to select and condense worthy dramatic literature suitable to the contestant's personality and maturity, and to convey orally the meaning of that dramatic literature through characterization and narration. TFA, understanding that final judgment must remain with the individual judge concerning effect on ranking, suggests that coaches encourage their students to avoid (1) literature that is devoid of literary merit, (2) literature that is in poor taste and, therefore, may be offensive because of language or subject matter.

1. Selections used in Dramatic shall be cuttings from a single source from published **printed** novels, short stories, plays, poems, or screenplays. **Published can mean traditionally printed, commercially available E-Books or PDFs, or material from approved websites as designated by the National Speech and Debate Association.** Coaches and/or students must have the original source, including ISBN, **electronic resource, or approved website URL**, if one exists to the tournament director upon request. **Coaches and/or students are solely responsible for providing any electronic device upon which electronic sources may be verified. No tournament is ever responsible for providing electronic devices or internet access for verification purposes.** A photocopy of the original print source is acceptable if the publication page is included. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification. **The list of NSDA approved websites may be found at <https://www.speechanddebate.org/approved-websites/>.**

2. Each year, specific documentation will be required by the Executive Council for entry into the State Tournament. During the online registration process, coaches will be required to provide the Dramatic title and ISBN number, **or approved website URL**. The competitor's original script and **highlighted photocopy are copied script is** required to be checked at registration and must be available at the State Tournament.

a. A flat copy of the **original source text** with page numbers and all lines being performed highlighted is required.

b. A copy of the bibliographic information page **or front page of the approved website with visible URL** is required.

c. A cover sheet with title, author(s), ISBN number **or NSDA approved website URL**, date of publication, number of transitional phrases, student's name, coach's name and signature and the school name must be completed. The cover sheet form can be found online at [www.txfa.org](http://www.txfa.org)

d. The original script, **in printed or electronic form, and** highlighted **photocopy** need to be available for the duration of the tournament.

3. The selection shall be memorized and presented without the use of physical objects (script, props, hand props, or scenery) or costume. Students should avoid movement in the presentation that would distract from the literature itself. Violation shall result in being ranked last in the round.

4. No student may use the same selection at a tournament in more than one event, but may change events with the selection during a tournament season. No student can use the same selection in more

than one tournament year. In addition, a student may not qualify for nor compete with the same selection at the state meet.

5. The contestant shall name the author and the title of the selection being presented during his/her performance. Violation shall result in being ranked down in the round.

6. Maximum time shall be ten minutes with a thirty-second grace period. Violation shall result in being ranked last in the round by the tab room when visible time signals have been given by the judge or by the authorized timekeeper. Without adding text to the previously performed selection and only considering audience response, the contestant shall not be penalized for exceeding the time limit in all qualifying and state tournament elimination and final rounds. Overtime violators SHALL NOT be ranked first in the round by the judge. Any other penalty is at the discretion of the judge. Judges may consider audience reaction and its impact on official time before enforcing any overtime penalty. [as amended 10/15]

7. Transitional phrases may be used in Dramatic Interpretation but must meet the following word requirements. Violation will result in disqualification.

a. No selection may use more than 100 total transitional words.

b. These words cannot be used to write new scenes to any piece of literature.

c. The 100 words cannot all be used in one particular location within the selection.

d. All transitional phrases must be written in the margin, by hand, on the **highlighted photocopy** for checking in case of protest. At TFA State, this will be used to check that the number does not exceed the 100 word limit.

e. Introductions do not count as part of the transitional phrases.

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### Documentation Requirements

Each year, specific documentation will be required by the Executive Council for entry into the State Tournament.

### Original Oratory

During the online registration process, coaches will be required to provide the title. The competitor's typed oration is required to be submitted at registration.

- a. All quoted material must be underlined and/or printed in red. Quoted material may not exceed 150 words.
- b. A cover sheet with title, student's name and signature, coach's name and signature and the school name must be completed. The cover sheet form can be found online at [www.txfa.org](http://www.txfa.org)
- c. Oratories need to be available for the duration of the tournament.

### Interpretation Events

During the online registration process, coaches will be required to provide the title and ISBN number or NSDA approved website URL. This information will be verified during registration. Titles of Interpretation selections must be submitted at registration. Once the titles are submitted, a change in selection will result in the student's disqualification. The competitors' original script and highlighted copy copied script is required to be checked during the registration process and must be available at the State Tournament. The list of NSDA approved websites may be found at <https://www.speechanddebate.org/approved-websites/>.

- a. A flat copy of the original source text with page numbers and all lines being performed highlighted is required.
- b. A copy of the bibliographic information page or front page of the NSDA approved website with visible URL is required.
- c. A cover sheet with title, author(s), ISBN number or NSDA approved website URL, date of publication, number of transitional phrases, student's name, coach's name and signature and the school name must be completed. The cover sheet form can be found online at [www.txfa.org](http://www.txfa.org)
- d. The original script, either printed or electronic, highlighted copy and bibliographic information page need to be available for the duration of the tournament. Coaches and/or students are solely responsible for providing any electronic device upon which electronic sources may be verified. No tournament is ever responsible for providing electronic devices or internet access for verification purposes.

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## Consolation Events

### Events

A. Prose (Offered in even years only): Selection(s) must be from a published work (or published works) and must be read from a folder. **Published can mean traditionally printed, commercially available E-Books or PDFs, or material from approved websites as designated by the National Speech and Debate Association. The list of NSDA approved websites may be found at <https://www.speechanddebate.org/approved-websites/>.** Selections cannot be taken from plays. A memorized introduction stating the title(s) and author(s) is required. Maximum time is seven minutes with a thirty-second grace period. Overtime violators SHALL NOT be ranked first in the round by the judge. Any other penalty is at the discretion of the judge. Judges may consider audience reaction and its impact on official time before enforcing any overtime penalty. [as amended 10/15]



(New POI Rules that were recently approved)

### Program Oral Interpretation

1. Purpose: POI is a program of oral interpretation of thematically-linked selections chosen from **two or three genres**: at least two genres: prose, poetry, drama (plays). At least two pieces of literature that represent at least two separate genres must be used. Unlike the other interpretation events, Program Oral Interpretation may use multiple sources for the program. All selections must be verbally identified by title and author. Competitors are encouraged to devote approximately equal times to each of the genres used in the program. This distinction pertains to these **two or three** genres as a whole, not types of literature within a genre (such as fiction/nonfiction).

2. Contest: The intact manuscript may be used by the contestant as a prop, so long as it remains in the contestant's control at all times. No costumes or props other than the manuscript are permitted. The contestant must address the script; however, introduction and transitional material may be memorized.

3. Each year, specific documentation will be required by the Executive Council for entry into the State Tournament. **All material used in POI must be published. Published can mean traditionally printed, commercially available E-Books or PDFs, or material from approved websites as designated by the National Speech and Debate Association.** During the online registration process, coaches will be required to provide a program title and ISBN numbers, **URLs from an NSDA approved website, and/or** publication information for each source used. Coaches and/or students must provide the original source, **in print or electronically, including ISBN, or approved website URL, if one exists,** to the tournament director upon request. **Coaches and/or students are solely responsible for providing any electronic device upon which electronic sources may be verified. No tournament is ever responsible for providing electronic devices or internet access for verification purposes.** A photocopy of the original print source is acceptable **if the publication page is included.** Violation of this rule will result in disqualification. The competitors' original **source material script** and copied, **highlighted** scripts **is-are** required to be checked at registration and must be available during the State Tournament. **The list of NSDA approved websites may be found at <https://www.speechanddebate.org/approved-websites/>.**

a. A flat copy of the **text** **source material** with page numbers and **all lines being performed highlighted** is required.

b. A copy of the bibliographic information page, **or front page of the NSDA approved website with visible URL, for all source material** is required.

c. A cover sheet with title, author(s), ISBN number or **URL from an NSDA approved website**, date of publication, number of transitional phrases, student's name, coach's name and signature and the school name must be completed. The cover sheet form can be found online at [www.txfa.org](http://www.txfa.org)

d. The original **source material scripts,** and highlighted **photocopies** **needs** to be available for the duration of the tournament.

4. Time limit shall be ten minutes maximum with a thirty-second grace period. There is no minimum time required. Overtime violators SHALL NOT be ranked first in the round by the judge. Any other penalty is at the discretion of the judge. Judges may consider audience reaction and its impact on official time before enforcing any overtime penalty.

5. Transitional phrases may be used in Program Oral Interpretation but must meet the following word requirements. Violation will result in disqualification.

a. No performances may use more than 100 total transitional words.

b. These words cannot be used to write new scenes to any piece of literature.

c. The 100 words cannot all be used in one particular location within the selection.

d. All transitional phrases must be written in the margin, by hand, on the **highlighted photocopies** of the **original source material** ~~piece of literature(s)~~ for checking in case of protest. At TFA State, this will be used to check that the number does not exceed the 100 word limit.

e. Introductions do not count as part of the transitional phrases.

## Rationale

We propose this amendment in order to clarify and expand TFA's rules regarding acceptable material for interpretation performance. Our aim is twofold: First, we want to clarify the language currently in the constitution referring to documentation requirements for interpretation events. There is occasionally confusion about the expectations for documentation checks for interpretation events at the State Tournament. We believe that this amendment standardizes the language about "original source material" and "highlighted photocopies" across the events, which will hopefully clarify those requirements and expectations. Second, we want to acknowledge that the world of "publishing" has changed, and that TFA has not yet made any adjustments to recognize legitimate electronic forms of publication. As such, across the interpretation events, we propose allowing commercial E-books and PDFs as legitimate means of documenting "original source material." In addition, we feel that there are other valuable and legitimate sources of material that are currently disallowed from TFA. And particularly with the introduction of POI, an event which regularly uses news articles as source material, we propose that for all interpretation events, the list of websites compiled by the National Speech and Debate Association shall be accepted as legitimate source material. This list is vetted specifically for use in speech performances, is updated monthly, and is easily accessible to anyone. We stipulate in the amendment that schools are responsible for providing their own electronic devices and/or internet access for verification of electronic sources. No tournament will ever be responsible for providing either an electronic device or internet access for a competing school in order to document an electronic source. The acceptance of commercial electronic publications and the NSDA acceptable website list can save teams money, simplify the transportation of original source material, and bring TFA into alignment with other speech and debate organizations.