

International Independent Schools

Public Speaking Competition 2026

Interpretive Reading

Directions: Please write comments if there is sufficient time. These sheets will be returned to the students at the end of the tournament. When the round is over, please give your ballots to the moderator.

Contestant's Name: _____ Code: _____ Room: _____ Round: _____

SCORING GUIDELINES

<u>70 - 74</u> Very Poor	<u>75-79</u> Weak	<u>80</u> Some Strength	<u>81 - 84</u> Good	<u>85- 89</u> Very Good	<u>90 - 94</u> Excellent	<u>95</u> Outstanding
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Category	Score
Effective introduction	/10
Appropriate & effective use of voice	/30
Pace & timing	/20
Connection between reader and audience (may include gesture, eye contact, and facial expression)	/10
Overall skill at interpretation & appeal to the listener	/30
Total	/100
Length of Speech (Judges: Do not deduct time penalties): Min: 5 min Max: 11 min	

Note: If the sum of the categories doesn't equal the total score, we will assume that we should use the overall total.

Comments:

Judge: _____ Number of Judges in the Room: _____

INTERPRETIVE READING

Each participant should read, *not recite*, a passage of prose or poetry (or a collection of poems), serious or humorous, with an appropriate brief original introduction (the introduction must be entirely written by the student presenting). Published speeches may not be used unless the speeches are part of a novel or published fictional story. Screenplays, plays or excerpts from plays may not be used. The intent is to get students to engage with works of literary merit. Newspaper articles, blogs, and student work, although arguably of literary merit, may not be used. If you are at all uncertain, check with the organizer well before the tournament, rather than risking your reading being disqualified. The piece or collection of pieces must be selected by the competitor before the tournament and must have been published. Past efforts have included everything from Dr. Seuss to Maya Angelou.

Reading from an e-book or tablet is allowed.

The time limits are from 5 to 11 minutes, including an introduction of about 30 to 60 seconds. The introduction should contribute to the overall effectiveness of the reading.

Judges will be concerned with how much the reader's voice and presentation add to the material rather than with the talent of the author.

Please note that this is a reading, not a dramatic presentation. While the use of facial expressions and gestures is encouraged where appropriate, they should not distract from the primary emphasis in this category. Competitors may stand or sit but should not move around excessively. Neither props nor costumes may be used.

There will be a time penalty of 2 points for speeches which are up to 30 seconds under 5 minutes or up to 30 seconds over 11 minutes. There will be a time penalty of 10 points for speeches under 4 minutes and 30 seconds or over 11 minutes and 30 seconds.

Salutation is optional.

Competitors would normally present the same reading for both preliminary rounds and the final. Students may only present readings that are used for tournament competitions in the current school year.

Any pieces chosen should be considered with sensitivity and empathy in mind for your audience.