POI

Using a combination of Prose, Poetry and Drama, you create a program using at least two out of the three genres. With a spotlight on argumentation and performative range, Program Oral Interpretation focuses on your ability to combine multiple genres of literature centered around a single theme.

RULES

- 7-10 minutes long
- You must portray multiple characters or perspectives
- No props or costumes may be used except for the manuscript (a small black binder).
- Performances include an introduction to contextualize the performance and state the titles and authors used in the program
- You can't touch the ground with anything other than your feet (no kneeling, touching the ground with your hands, sitting down, etc...)

WHAT TO PUT IN YOUR INTRODUCTION

- Observation - quote, statistic, fact, concept
- Explanation - how does your observation relate to your piece?
- Application - how does this affect you? Other people? The world?
- Relatability - how can your audience relate to your piece?
- Title & author of the pieces

TIME STRUCTURE

This doesn't need to be followed perfectly, but is more of a general guide for where your performance should peak.

Teaser 0:00-1:30

   Previews the topic and mood of the selection

Intro 1:30-3:00

   Explains the purpose of the performance

Exposition 3:00-3:30

   Introduces the characters and setting

Inciting Incident 3:30 - 4:00

   Sends conflict into motion

Rising Action 4:00-7:30

   Complicates the conflict

Climax 7:30-8:30

   Emotional peak of the performance

Falling Action 8:30-9:30

   Resolves the conflict

GETTING STARTED

   Start off by thinking about why you wanted to speak about your topic or theme, then, think about any books, plays or poetry you have encountered that relate to it or you've drawn inspiration from. Then, broaden your search. Start researching online, through scripts in the debate room, or books, and begin piecing together enough literature for a program. Not only will you be finding different genres of literature, you will also encounter different tones, perspectives and length. Good POI's will include longer narratives for the audience to relate to, short snippets packed with information and literature that lets the audience laugh. Finding a diverse set of literature enables a more dynamic performance.

PICKING YOUR PIECES

- Searching for literature in POI can seem intimidating, since you have more scripts to find than the other interpretation events. However, keep in mind that POI allows for the most freedom when searching for literature. As long as it follows the publishing guidelines of the National Speech and Debate Association, and it meets team and coach standards for appropriateness, you can use it!
- Not all pieces of literature have to be prominently featured in the program. There will likely be pieces that only have one page dedicated to them. Whether it be a funny punchline, an emotionally powerful stanza from a poem, or a short excerpt from a non-fiction book, don't be afraid to include a piece that is short if it adds to your program's theme or argument

PROGRAMMING

Programming is the process of cutting your literature and threading it together throughout the performance. That doesn't mean that your POI will consist of performing a poem in full, then reading a short story and closing with a monologue from a play. Instead, break your literature down into pages and build a program that follows the structure of interp. For example, introduce the compelling character from your Prose in the intro, and then dedicate time later on in the performance to that same character.

CREATING YOUR MANUSCRIPT

- The most common manuscript is a small black binder with page protectors, which can be found in most office supply stores. Type up your cutting, format it into two columns and print the document. Then, simply cut out each specific page and place it in your page protectors. Some people like to put black cardstock in each page slick and glue or tape the cutting to the cardstock. Your cutting should read like a book, meaning, a peer or coach could pick up your manuscript and read your program from beginning to end.
- Don't be afraid to use your manuscript as a tool in the performance. In fact, the best POIs incorporate it as a prop! It's been used as a table, laptop, train car handle, and many other props in nationals performances.
- As a general rule, make sure that all of the words from each section (or scene) of your cutting fit onto one page. In this way, each time you turn the page, the audience knows that you are transitioning between pieces of literature. Think of each page turn as a pop in and out of the different parts of your program.

KEEPING IT ORGANIZED

- Make multiple copies of each text, one copy for you to write on, mark up, cut, and another for reference as needed.
- Put the text into a google doc or a file in Windows 365
- Separate the pieces by genre, or in the order that you will introduce them.
- Choose a different color or font for each piece (this will come in handy when reading out of your manuscript)
- Make sure to record all publication + citation information (you won't be allowed to compete at National Qualifiers without it) If you have a question about a pieces publication, ask for a coaches help.