Interpretive Reading
Project Speech Guidelines

Read A Story

Select, analyze, plan, rehearse and present a 8 to 10 minute narrative that you believe will appeal to your audience. If your selection is too long, edit as appropriate following the guidelines in the appendix of the Interpretive reading manual. Prepare an introduction to your story, too. Use your voice to convey the meaning of the story and emotions portrayed in it.

Since many people are not familiar with interpretive reading and its purpose, you may want to have the Toastmaster briefly explain the nature of interpretive reading before introducing you.

Interpreting Poetry

Select, analyze, plan, rehearse and present a 6 to 8 minute poem that you feel would be of interest to your audience. (You may find the poems of Emily Dickinson, Rudyard Kipling and Robert Frost appealing.) Prepare an appropriate introduction of no more than 45 seconds. Use your voice to convey the mood, meaning, and emotions of the poem.

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The Monodrama

Select, analyze and present a 5 to 7 minute monodrama. The monodrama may be in prose or poetry. Use your voice and body to convey the mental, emotional and physical characteristics of the person who is speaking. Prepare an introduction (of no more than 45 seconds) to your selection. If possible, memorize your selection. If you cannot do this, try to refer to the book as little as possible as you speak. You may use props if you feel they will add to the impression you want to make on your audience.

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The Play

Select, rehearse, and present a 12 to 15 minute play or portion of a play. (You may find the plays of James M. Barrie and Eugene O'Neill of interest.) Edit the material as necessary to fall into the given time frame, following the guidelines in the appendix in the back of the Interpretive Reading manual. Your play should have no more than three different characters. Use your voice and gestures/body movement to suggest each character to your audience. Be sure to review the tips on gestures/body movement and reading in the appendix in the back of the Interpretive Reading manual. Prepare an appropriate introduction of no more than 60 seconds.
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**The Oratorical Speech**

For this project, you are to select, rehearse and present a 8 to 10 minute famous speech. Employ all of your interpretive reading skills to bring the speech to life. You are encouraged to use gestures/body movements to enhance your presentation. If possible, dress in costume.

Prepare a brief introduction of no more than 45 seconds for your presentation. Be sure to review the tips on eye contact with the audience and reading the material.

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