

**Recitation/Dramatic Interpretation Evaluation Guidelines**  
Produced by the Tompkins County 4-H Public Presentations Committee

Delivery	1	2	3	4	5
Introduction	No introduction.	Abrupt, unclear or insufficient introduction.	General and adequate introduction, introduces topic to audience.	Strong introduction. Opening remarks stimulate interest in the piece, establishes connection to and engages audience. Personal introduction included.	Exceptional introduction. Opening remarks creatively stimulate interest in the piece, explain background or context of piece, introduce characters, setting, historical significance and source of piece. Personal introduction included.
Gestures	No use of appropriate gestures	Minimal use of appropriate gestures	Hand and body movements appropriate to content or character.	Good use of gestures normal, spontaneous and natural	Excellent use of gestures; normal and spontaneous, enhances points and transitions.
Conveys Tone/Mood	Mood or tone of piece not conveyed	Mood or tone of piece somewhat conveyed	Facial expressions, tone of voice and inflection conveys mood of piece or personality of character	Appropriate use of dramatic voice and tone, pulls audience.	Message vastly enhanced by tone, carries audience.
Smoothness/ Flow	Halting or abrupt transitions, lengthy pauses.	Choppy, with some pauses.	Fluid delivery, smooth transitions, appropriate pace and pauses.	Fluid and natural delivery. Good use of pauses and drama enhance overall flow; appropriate pauses at transitions between explanation, recitation and conclusion.	Outstanding pacing enhances recitation, conveys character, excellent use of pauses as transitions between explanation, recitation and conclusion.
Articulation	Many mispronounced words. Lacks clear enunciation throughout piece.	Occasional mispronounced pronouncements. Some unclear words.	Words generally pronounced clearly and correctly throughout piece; inflection appropriate.	Excellent articulation - enunciates complex words clearly. Portrays character	Outstanding enunciation and pronunciation throughout piece. Inflection and fluency in delivery. Excellent portrayal of character.
Appropriate length	Consider the Subject matter: Does the presentation adequately cover the topic in the time allotted? Could this presentation have used more time or less time?  <b>Scoring 1-4 based proportionately on effective use of time for subject matter. Less than 5 or more than 15 minutes = automatic score of 3</b>				Presenter uses adequate amount of time in proportion to subject matter.  Not to exceed 15 minutes
Proper use of Aids	Reads from notes.	Too heavy reliance on notes; long pauses not related to recitation	Notes or book used for quick reference only. Use of aids does not interfere with flow.	Minimal use of cards as cues.	Outstanding memorization with natural delivery
Conclusion / Closure (may be verbal or dramatic)	No concluding verbal statement; or dramatic closure	Closure, verbal or dramatic insufficient	Clearly defined conclusion or closure	Creative verbal or dramatic conclusion / closure, clear impact	Excellent, well orchestrated with powerful impact

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Literary Selection	1	2	3	4	5
Appropriate for Age and experience	Overly simple or too complex for age and experience	Somewhat suited to speaker's age and or experience	Well suited to age and experience of speaker	Challenges presenter, well executed	Challenges presenter superior execution
Selection Stimulates Audience Interest	Lacks audience appeal	Some interest generated	Selected work engages audience and generates interest.	Selection engages audience and maintains interest throughout.	Selection has broad appeal and stimulates interest throughout.
Appropriate understanding of selected work conveyed (through words and or body language)	Does not convey understanding of selected work	Conveys some understanding of selected work	Conveys adequate understanding of selected work	Conveys thorough understanding of work	Outstanding, conveys extensive knowledge of work
Content Documented	No reference to content documentation	Content/documentation not clearly communicated	Basic references verbally cited (title and author)	Enhanced references verbally and visually cited.	Enhanced extended references (historical context).
				Internet references cited with web site address	
Presenter	1	2	3	4	5
Appearance	Not applicable	Inappropriate dress for public presentation.	Some aspects of presenter's appearance within his/her personal control could be improved upon (i.e., dirty hands, unkempt hair, clothes sloppy)	Neat, clean, appropriate attire for public speaking.  In Dramatic Interpretation: Theme related costume required. Costume effectively represents character and enhances presentation	<b>For recitation:</b> extra thought and effort given to appearance or dress may subtly reflect mood of recitation.  <b>For Dramatic Interp:</b> costuming strongly represents character and theme.
Eye Contact	Does not establish eye contact	Occasional eye contact	Establishes eye contact with one or two persons in audience; appropriate as determined by selected piece.	Establishes eye contact with entire audience appropriately as determined by selected piece	Excellent use of eye contact. Establishes and maintains eye contact throughout presentation with entire audience appropriately as determined by selected piece
Voice volume & rate	Voice too soft, barely audible, Rate too fast or too slow	Voice not clear, inconsistent rate, voice drops off	Voice clear, generally consistent rate projects well, does not drop off	Voice clear, distinct, projects well with appropriate volume and rate	Voice clear, distinct, projects and modulates and tone and rate to enhance specific points.
Posture	Leans or slouches inappropriately to selected piece	Occasional slouching or leaning, rigidity or stiffness in posture	Generally stands erect, moves confidently, posture changes to reflect character or context of presentation	Assured and confident. Appropriate posture throughout piece	Confident natural body language enhances character and / or piece.
Poise	Appears nervous; extremely uneasy	Appears somewhat uneasy or nervous	Appears generally calm and relaxed in front of audience	Appears calm, relaxed; conveys confidence and seems comfortable in front of audience	Shows extreme calm, is relaxed and personable, engages audience with confident demeanor and comfort.
Enthusiasm	Presenter lacks enthusiasm	Some enthusiasm shown; needs more	Presenter conveys personal interest and enthusiasm for piece	Clear enthusiasm shown throughout piece	Infectious enthusiasm that embraces audience