

Limited Preparation Oral Interpretation of Literature

Thanks for participating in the GGO's first (and maybe last!) year of Flash Interpretation! Your actions could cause us to kill or keep this weirdo of an event. Whether you're a competitor or a judge, I appreciate your willingness to jump into the fray and try something new. We have selected a variety of scripts that are no longer than 600 words. In each round, contestants will have four selections to draw from to create a short performance. This event combines the creativity of Oral Interpretation with the quick thinking of Limited Preparation. Beyond that, let's lean on and into each other in figuring out what this event is. Have some fun!

Preparation & Event Structure

- Preparation Time: 15 minutes
- Performance Time: Up to 5 minutes (no minimum)
- Competitors may consult anyone during prep, including other students—even from different schools.
- All competitors in the prep room (Burk Hall 1) prepare simultaneously

Materials

Students receive 4 short selections (prose, poetry, or drama).

- They may choose 1–2 selections to perform.
- Cutting/abridging is allowed.
- A brief original introduction may be included (optional)
- Short excerpts from complimentary literary works may be included (optional)

Presentation

Students may read from:

- A printed script
- A device (tablet, laptop, etc.)
- A Black Book or note cards

Judging Criteria

Judges should evaluate as they would a traditional Oral Interpretation event, focusing on:

- Analysis & Interpretation: Does the student demonstrate understanding of the text?
- Vocal Performance: Use of tone, pacing, and expression to convey meaning.
- Physical Performance: Gestures, facial expressions, and presence that enhance the interpretation.
- Creativity: How effectively does the student shape the material into a compelling performance?

Timing

- Maximum: 5 minutes
- Signals: You may provide time signals throughout OR simply signal when 5 minutes is reached.

GGO 2025 Theme: Apologia

Apologizing is an art form. And performing someone else's apology? That's art on art, and not something you're likely to meta-regret. It's ridiculous, too, but I'm sorry to say I am super serious. And this event invites you to dive no joke into the world of apologia, where words can mend hearts, save reputations, or sometimes fail spectacularly.



Every script you encounter (in preliminary rounds and finals) will explore apologia, the rhetorical act of apology or defense. Why focus on apologies? Because they are culturally and rhetorically significant acts that reveal how language shapes culture and identity, repairs trust, or shift blame.

When is an apology genuine? When is it performative? How do cultural norms shape what “sorry” means? Analyzing apologies helps us understand how people navigate accountability, ethics, and persuasion. There's no single right way to apologize—and definitely no single right way to interpret an apology.

And there's no right way to approach this event, but here is what we recommend. Choose one of the provided texts for the given round. You could cut or combine the texts that compliment the primary text you've selected, but in most cases it's advisable to choose a single text, craft a short original introduction, and choose how to bring the apology to life... or kill it. Sorry.

Feel free to experiment with tone, pacing, and physicality. Be bold, be creative, and have fun—there's nothing to regret and no one to forgive you, but you will have lots to apologize for today.

Truly sorry,

Tournament Staff