CHOOSING AN ORAL INTERPRETATION PIECE

Prose: a selection from a short story, novel, essay -- not from a play
Poetry: a selection from one poem or series of poems -- same theme OR same author
- Props cannot be used, the only thing you may have in your hand is a book or script
- Time Limit at Club Days is 10 minutes for Senior, 5 minutes for Junior/Intermediate

SELECTION OF MATERIAL:
- Choose something you know, like and understand
- Material that has strong sensory images -- you want your audience to see, feel, and smell what you are describing
- Strong theme or message
- Unique -- not something your audience has heard many times

VOCAL PRESENTATION:
  Vocal Energy- you must capture and keep the audience’s attention
  Excellent Diction- the audience must understand every word
  Vocal Emphasis- this is essential for the audience to understand the point of the piece
  Separate Voice for Each Character- each person who speaks must sound different
  Direct, Personal Sound- you must present this to the audience in a way that speaks to them, this is NOT a reading

PHYSICAL PRESENTATION:
  Facial Expression- your face must reflect the emotions of the selection
  Gestures- you must use your free hand (the one not holding the script) to gesture for emphasis, this is why a memorized speech is better in most ways
  Use of Entire Body to Communicate Emotion- use body tension, posture and stance to show emotion
  Eye Contact- you MUST look at each member of the audience as you perform. ENGAGE them!!!

INTRODUCTION:
  Establish something interesting about your selection
  Provide necessary background for us to understand the piece
  Establish a theme or moral
  Name the selection and the author

INTRO EXAMPLE:
  **This was my introduction for my Top Purple Oral Interp. from The Hunger Games**

The Hunger Games is the story of Katniss Everdeen. In Panem, or futuristic, war-torn America, there are 12 districts. Every year 2 teenagers, or tributes, are chosen at random to fight to the death in an arena. The winner keeps their life and their District is fed for a year. Losing Districts receive nothing. Katniss has volunteered to go to the Hunger Games in order to spare her sister. While in the arena, Katniss befriends a young girl named Rue. The Hunger Games, by Suzanne Collins.