

Proposal to clarify creative use of binders

Submitted by John Rademacher, Madison West, on behalf of the Category Committee

Summary:

Change the wording regarding use of binders to avoid contradictory language.

Rationale:

In Farrago, Group Interp, OIL, Prose, and Poetry we allowed for the use of binders as props and in “other creative ways.” If a student wears the binder, this seemingly contradicts the rule about no costuming.

Proposed change to Farrago, OIL, Prose, and Poetry:

Replace all of Rule 4. with:

4. Costumes and props may not be used, with the exception of the manuscript. The manuscript and/or binder containing the manuscript may be used as a prop. Contestant must hold the manuscript in his/her own hand or hands at all times.

Proposed change to Group Interp:

4. Replace “The manuscript and /or binder containing the manuscript may be used as a prop or in other creative ways. Use of the manuscript is subject to critique.” with “The manuscript and/or binder containing the manuscript may be used as a prop. Each contestant must hold the manuscript in his/her own hand or hands at all times.”

Additional information:

Here are two different national tournament rules regarding the use of the binder:

from NIETOC (Prose & Poetry):

“e. PERFORMANCE — The selections must be interpreted from a manuscript in the hand or hands of the contestant. The contestant may interpret the selection by referencing the manuscript or may give the selection solely by memory without reference to the manuscript, but in either event must hold the manuscript in his/her own hand or hands at all times. No costumes or props, with the exception of the intact manuscript, shall be permitted in poetry/prose interpretation.”

From NSDA (Program of Oral Interp):

“2. Contest: The use of manuscript is required. The intact manuscript may be used by the contestant as a prop, so long as it remains in the contestant's control at all times. No costumes or props other than the manuscript are permitted. The contestant must address the script; however, introduction and transitional material may be memorized.”