

# NATIONAL CATHOLIC FORENSIC LEAGUE

## *Duo Interpretation of Literature Critique Sheet*

Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Round: \_\_\_\_\_ Room: \_\_\_\_\_ Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ out of \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge's Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School/League: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Criteria For Judging:**

- The introduction must be composed by the speakers; it should name the work and author, provide necessary background information and establish the mood.
- If lines from the selection are used in the introduction, the speakers must adhere to the rules of the event.
- The selection should contain characters of reasonable depth and development.
- Characterization should be maintained, except during introduction and transitions, and must be distinct from narration.
- Fluency, articulation, enunciation, and vocal quality should be effectively utilized to reflect the characters that are being portrayed.
- The readers should demonstrate emotional and intellectual involvement with the selection: vocally, by varying pitch, rate, phrasing, tone, and volume; and physically by using appropriate gestures, facial expression and body movement.
- The character dialogue should reflect a genuine sense of interaction, not a mechanical exchange of lines.
- Physically, the characters should react to each other's verbal and non-verbal expressions, but they may not touch.
- The readers should select material appropriate to their abilities.
- The readers should demonstrate an awareness of the selection's development and its build to a climax.

### **Rules of Procedure:**

1. The two readers are to render a dynamic moment, utilizing appropriate vocal expression, restrained gesture, and interaction. The readers will vocally and physically respond to each other's verbal and non-verbal cues while maintaining an off-stage focus.
2. The selection must be from a single, published play, fictional or non-fictional work, or poem. The author's words as published in the literature may not be altered for this presentation with the exception that cutting is permitted. Material from more than one source is not allowed. The material may be serious, humorous, or both. An interpreter may present only one character. Narration may be read by one or both interpreters. Any singing must be limited to a maximum of thirty (30) seconds total within the presentation.
3. The speakers must each hold a manuscript **and read from it. A reasonable balance of eye contact with the script and audience (or focal points) should be maintained. Speakers who fail to maintain the illusion of reading from the manuscript may not be ranked first.** Gestures and bodily movement should be kept to a minimum. They can be used for emphasis but should be limited and suggested rather than exaggerated. Neither may move around; either may pivot from side to side or turn around. They must remain standing. Except during the introduction and transition, eye contact is aimed only in the audience's direction: focal points are to be employed during dialogue; eye contact with specific audience members during narration is permitted. No properties or costumes may be used.
4. The selection must begin from center stage.
5. Speakers may not take lines belonging to one character in the script and apply them to a different character in the performance.
6. The reading should not exceed ten (10) minutes, including at most one minute of introduction and transitional material other than the author's words. Any overtime beyond the thirty-second grace period is excessive. Judges may not award first place to any duet speaking beyond the thirty-second grace period.
7. Duo teams will receive an automatic rank of 6 if: a) either student loses possession of his/her manuscript; or b) either student does not remain standing; or c) students make physical contact with one another; or d) students make direct eye contact with one another outside of introduction and transitional material. (\*\*Ties with a rank of 6 are permitted only among students violating these rules.\*\*)

**USE THIS SIDE AND THE OTHER SIDE FOR SUBSTANTIVE COMMENTS.  
BE CERTAIN TO INCLUDE JUSTIFICATION FOR YOUR RANKING.**