



High School Competition 2026 Contest Rules

Oral Interpretation

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Columbia State Community College will be hosting the annual **High School Competition Day** on **March 20, 2026**. As part of the competition there is an oral interpretation of literature. We hope you will encourage many of your students to become involved in the competition.

Please be advised that the quantity of students is limited and that the deadline is rigid. All entries must be submitted to Columbia State Community College by **March 6, 2026, no later**.

Students may draw for the order of presentations for the oral interpretations on the date of the competition at the CHECK-IN DESK in the lobby of the Hickman Building prior to the competition.

We look forward to having you attend the High School Competition!

Rules for Oral Interpretation:

- 1. Date:** Friday, March 20, 2026.
- 2. Place:** Hickman Building, Room for the competition to be announced at registration. Oral interpretation students can draw their sequence number prior to the competition.
- 3. Entrants:** Each school may register up to **four students**.
- 4. Range:** As defined in this contest, oral interpretation includes all literary forms of fiction and non-fiction. Students may interpret a poem, novel, short story, non-fiction piece, journalistic prose, an original composition or an actual scene from a play for film.
- 5. Preparation:** The scene can be memorized or students may hold scripts if desired. Scenes

must be performed by a solo actor. Students are permitted to use props; costumes, simple settings, music or anything they can bring and quickly utilize that will help to establish the tone or mood of the scene.

6. Length: Cuttings/interpretations should run no longer than five minutes in length. Introductions should be avoided where possible. The scene should speak for itself with a minimum of set-up.

7. Judging: 100 points/10 points possible per criteria. Students will be judged based on these 10 criteria:

- memorization or use of script
- sophistication of material
- characterization
- use of language
- gesture/movement/physicalization
- originality of material/treatment
- use of props/costuming
- concentration/understanding
- complete unity, order and structure of scene/cutting
- voice strong/delivery polished

8. Awards: Prizes will be given to the top three students in the category according to point Totals.