

What to Expect Competing in Humorous Interpretation

*In Humorous Interpretation, students choose a play, short story, or other published work, and perform a selection of one or more portions of the piece. Humorous Interpretation is designed to test a student's comedic skills through script analysis, delivery, timing, and character development. Competitors may portray one or multiple characters and their performances are evaluated by a judge. The interview below with Humorous Interper **Jordan Singer** gives you a preview of what it's like to compete in this speech event.*

Why did you choose Humorous Interpretation out of the available events?

Humorous Interp not only allows me to express myself, but allows me to fill a room with laughter and happiness. I first started HI as a freshman, and was instantly drawn to it and its ability to convey a central idea through humor. Interp allows you to be the reason somebody smiles, even if just for a moment, and I wouldn't trade that for the world.

What skills are especially important in HI?

Humorous Interp takes a lot of heart, dedication, and practice. Any piece that you perform at the beginning of the year will not be close to the same as it will be at the end of the year. Interp pushes you to constantly grow and think outside the box. The ability to change, as well as open-mindedness, are definitely the most necessary skills to an interper.

What kind of challenges did you face in round?

One of the biggest challenges of HI is the need to constantly improve. You will have gained more experience with every round you walk out of, and that experience can be applied to make you an even better performer and competitor. There will always be people with more creative ways of portraying a piece, and that challenge is one that helps you strive to be an even better performer, competitor, and all around person.

What does a typical tournament look like for a Humorous Interper?

Walking into a tournament, the first thing an interper does is warm-ups! Being involved in an interper warm-up is always something I look forward to when it comes to tournament days. It gets you hyped for the day ahead and allows you to have fun with your competitors and teammates. As soon as postings go up, the nerves begin and things get a little frantic.

Every HI piece is so unique, and I love watching how creative people can get in terms of character development, crazy blocking, and cutting in order to tell the story the way they want. Sometimes, watching an outstanding piece is flat out nerve wracking because you feel as if you won't be as good in comparison. But as soon as your judge calls your code, it all becomes worth it. Making people laugh and smile is the most amazing feeling in the world.

Every tournament is an opportunity to share your voice and spread happiness to an audience. No matter how high I rank, or how far I break, the experience of a tournament is something inimitable, and I'm so glad I could be a part of something so special and unique. I'm only in my second year of competing, and am so excited to be able to learn and grow as an interper!



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— Jordan Singer, student,
Michael Krop HS, FL