

# Key Terms in Interpretive Events

## Content

**Text Analysis-** Looking to the text for clues as how to interpret the character. Consider:

- What the character says about himself
- What other characters say about the character
- What the playwright provides (usually in italics)
- What the character does

**Sub-Text-** Finding the information that is important about the characters by “reading between the lines”

**Characterization-** creating a distinct personality for the character. Consider:

- Who is this character?
- What are his/her motives?
- What are his/her likes and dislikes?
- What does this character look like? How tall? How heavy?
- How does the character sound to others?
- How does the character stand?
- What focal points will the character use?
- What will this character do with his hands? Is he shy? Will he talk with his hands in a bold manner? Is the character nervous?

**Introduction-** how you introduce your selection to the judges; It must include the title of the piece and the author’s name; It should set the scene to help the audience best understand the piece.

**Dialogue-** the words the characters speak

**Exposition-** writing in a text that conveys information or explains

**Prose-** material written in ordinary language without verse or meter.

**Poetry-** material written with a certain rhythm

**Free Verse-** poetry without regular meter or rhyme

**Script Interpretation-** contestants have a script in a folder and are expected to INTERPRET the selection’s characters, mood, and meaning through voice, facial expression and gesture

**Narrative Prose-** story without dialogue

## **Voice**

**Voice-** giving each character a distinct sound, volume, etc., to help the judge visualize the character.

**Dialect-** accent, way of speaking

**Pitch-** the highness or lowness of the voice on a musical scale

**Pace-** how fast or slowly the character speaks

**Inflection-** the rise or fall of the pitch; stress that is put on certain syllables and words

**Monotone-** repetition of the same pitch during the whole delivery. No variety of inflection

**Volume-** the loudness/softness of a character's voice

**Timing-** involves the use of the pause; thinking time, realization time, silence between words

## **Body**

**Stance-** the way a person stands including the posture

**Focal Points-** specific areas of visual direction; a distinct area/direction used for the eye contact that is established for each character

**Tech-** refers to what people do with their bodies (facial expressions, gestures, focal points, blocking and movement)

**Facial Expression-** refers to the movements of the face that convey meaning

**Popping-** the rapid changing from one character to another (involves moving of feet out and in at the ankle)

**Morphing-** the slow transition of one character to another or from one environment or scene to another

**Blocking-** movement within the piece that helps develop the scene and characters

**Environment-** creation by the interper of the physical "space" he or she inhabits; Through the use of pantomime by the interper, the audience must be able to correctly indentify the character's space.

**Character Blending-** One character runs/bleeds into another character; inability to determine between the two characters; (same voice, same posture, etc.)

**Reacting-** having a reaction to the other character; responding to the other character with facial expressions, body language, etc.