



Texas Charter School Academic and Athletic League 2026-2027 Monologue Interpretation & Duet Acting Rulebook

General Outline

The TCSAAL Monologue Interpretation (Humorous and Dramatic Categories) and Duet Acting competitions will be available to all students, 6th-8th Grade and 9th-12th Grade. Schools will not be limited to a maximum number of entries. Students are not permitted to perform in the age-grouping that does not include their grade. For example, an 8th grader cannot perform a monologue in the High School category and cannot be matched with a 9th grader or older for duet acting competitions.

Judging will be conducted by a professional within the theatre and/or speech field. TCSAAL will not be responsible for the supervision of the students during each event. Therefore, each school is required to bring an authorized supervisor separate from the coach to monitor the students while they are not competing at the contest. This individual will check in with the coach the day of the contest at the designated sign in time.

A student can only participate in 1 Duet performance, 1 Monologue Dramatic Performance, & 1 Monologue Humorous performance.

In the instance that any performance category exceeds 15 entries, preliminary rounds may be required. Preliminary rounds may be capped at 16 performances each with 3 students from each preliminary advancing to the finals round. Tournament administration may opt against this if TCSAAL administration determines such is in the best interest of the competition.

Fees

Monologue Dramatic Interpretation - \$30 per student
Monologue Humorous Interpretation - \$30 per student
Duet Acting- \$50 per pair

Monologue Interpretation

The Monologue Interpretation contest enables the student not only to hone their general speaking skills, but to select and condense worthy dramatic literature suitable to the contestant's personality and maturity, and to convey orally the meaning of that dramatic literature through characterization and narration. TCSAAL encourages that coaches encourage their students to avoid (1) literature that is devoid of literary merit and (2) literature that is in poor taste and, therefore, may be offensive because of language or subject matter.

Students are eligible to participate in both competitions.

Rules:

1. Selections used in Monologues shall be cuttings from a single-source from published printed novels, short stories, plays, poems, or screenplays. Coaches must have the original source, including an ISBN information to provide to TCSAAL prior to the competition. **Coaches must bring copies of the scripts/cuttings (3 in total) to the competition as well for the judging panel and TCSAAL administration.** Photocopies are acceptable. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification.

2. Presentation shall be from memory and without the use of physical objects or costumes. **Pockets, ties, glasses, or any article of clothing is not to be used as a prop.** Students should avoid movement in the presentation that would distract from the literature itself. However, hand gestures, blocking, and voice placement if used tastefully are encouraged. Violations will result in point deductions.

3. All content must be taken from the script or cutting, with the exception of a verbal introduction, during which the contestant is required to name the author and the title of the selection being presented during his/her performance. Time for the introduction shall be included in the time limit. Violations will result in point deductions.

a. Teaser-Style introductions are permitted. Teaser-Style introductions are introductions that follow a selection of the performer's script or cutting, usually started within the first minute of a performance.

4. Maximum time shall be 5 minutes for 6th - 8th Grade with thirty second grace period and 8 minutes for 9th-12th Grade with a 30 second grace period. Violation shall result in being ranked last in the round. Visible time signals will be given by an authorized timekeeper.

5. Cuttings should maintain the author's intent – Additional content, as determined by the appointed judge, is prohibited from altering or influencing the intent or context of the literature, and may result in disqualification.

6. Monologue Interpretation performances are performed without the aid of any type of set or props. **Performances will not be permitted the use of a chair.**

Duet Acting

This contest will enable the students to develop skills in techniques, ensemble, and oral interpretation common to all communications. TCSAAL suggests that coaches encourage their students to avoid (1) literature that is devoid of literary merit, (2) literature that is in poor taste and, therefore, may be offensive because of language or subject matter.

Rules:

1. Selections used in Duet Acting may be dramatic or humorous in nature. The piece must have cuttings from a single source from a published printed novel, short story, play, poem or screenplay. Coaches must have the original source, including an ISBN information to provide to TCSAAL prior to the competition. **Coaches must bring copies of the scripts/cuttings (3 in total) to the competition as well for the judging panel and TCSAAL administration.** Photocopies are acceptable. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification.

2. The selections shall be dramatic or humorous works.

3. Time for presentation shall not exceed eight (8) minutes for 6th -8th Grade with a thirty (30) second grace period and ten (10) minutes for High School with a thirty (30) second grace period. There is no minimum time required. Violation shall result in being ranked last in the round results. Visible time signals will be given by an authorized timekeeper during each performance.

4. All content must be taken from the script or cutting, with the exception of a verbal introduction, during which the contestant is required to name the author and the title of the selection being presented during his/her performance. Time for the introduction shall be included in the time limit. Violations will result in point deductions.

Teaser-Style introductions are permitted. Teaser-Style introductions are introductions that follow a selection of the performer's script or cutting, usually started within the first minute of a performance.

5. The selection shall be memorized and presented without the use of physical objects (props, hand props, or scenery) or costume. Pockets, ties, or any article of clothing is not to be used as a prop. **Two chairs will be allowed.** The two chairs will be used to create atmosphere and environment. Violations will result in point deductions.

a. **Exception:** The 2 chairs may be utilized as props.

6. A student may compete with one partner and one selection at a given tournament.

7. Cuttings should maintain the author's intent – Additional content, as determined by the appointed judge, is prohibited from altering or influencing the intent or context of the literature, and may result in disqualification.

Judging

Scoring rubrics will be posted on the TCSAAL website prior to the event. In the event of a tie, the head judge will reconvene to determine ranking.

Awards

Monologue Interpretation and Duet Acting: individuals will be awarded medals for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place at the State Competition.