

# LLC's Spring 2026

## Languages Interpretive Reading Contest

**Languages Involved:** ASL, French, Spanish, and English as a Second Language

**Date and Time:** Thursday, May 7 starting at 5:00pm; refreshments from 4:00pm

**Location:** Building 77, Lecture Hall, Room 1000

### Purpose:

- The participant will choose a literature item, such as poetry, fiction, children's literature, news articles, speeches, and letters, or media item such as animations, movies, and songs written in their language of study that is either published or self-authored **and** make any appropriate edits so that their selection is not longer than 3 minutes or shorter than <sup>1</sup> minute. The purpose is to:
  - Build appreciation for the participant's language and culture of study.
  - Develop skill in conveying the meaning and emotions of literature or media in another language.
  - Improve pronunciation in a fun and meaningful way.

### Description:

- Interpretive reading is the effective communication of an author's thoughts and/or feelings to the listener.
- The reader should draw meaning from the selection to share with the audience.
- All the skills of reading aloud, including vocal flexibility, clear articulation and correct pronunciation, as well as pauses and rate variation, can be used in interpretive reading.

### Analyze Your Material:

- Understand what the author was intending for you to know or feel.
- Prepare an introduction to put the audience in the proper frame of mind for hearing your presentation.

### Mark Your Material:

By marking your material, you will remember what you planned to do or say while performing your interpretive reading. You have many ways to mark your script, and there is no right or wrong way to do it. Here are a few suggestions you can use:

- To remind yourself about pausing and speaking at an appropriate rate, use a single slash (/) for a short pause, an inverted v (^) for a medium pause, and a double slash (//) for a long pause.
- For emphasis, use the single or double underline to remind yourself about words that are important.
- To remind yourself about what attitude you want to convey, write a word or phrase in the margin, such as [smile here] or [get quieter].

### Present with Confidence:

To develop your confidence, you must practice using your voice and body to convey the author's message to your listeners.

Here are a few suggestions for improving your vocal delivery:

- Speak at an appropriate rate. Speak slowly, particularly if you have or use an accent.

- Remember to speak at the right volume for the room in which you are reading (there will be a microphone). Showing variety in volume will help demonstrate your ability.

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- Use emphasis and variety when expressing yourself. Some words need more punch than others. Be sure you know which words should have emphasis and mark them so you don't forget.
- Crisp articulation and correct pronunciation are key ingredients to being understood.
- Make your voice believable if you are trying to convey different characters.

## Rules:

- All presentations must include a typed version of the material in the language of study **and** the English translation typed. This will be emailed to [langlab@mtsac.edu](mailto:langlab@mtsac.edu) **by Thursday, April 30** before the contest. Students performing in ASL and English will only need to submit the written English translation of their material.
- All presenters must meet with a professor in the performance language **by Thursday, April 30**. The professor may ask you to perform the material for them to assure that you are well-prepared for the event.
- Including the introduction, all entries will be 1- 4 minutes.
- All presentations must contain an introduction that includes:
  - Student's name and language of study
  - Title and author of the material
  - Reason for choosing the material
  - Any background information that listeners need in order to understand the material better, including whether it is serious or humorous.
- Read or memorize your presentation. Mount on black construction paper or in a black folder if you will be referring to notes or reading.
- The participant may (not required) include costume, props, or movement in addition to vocal interpretation.
- Due to time limits:
  - There will be no more than 8 participants per language.
  - First and second place winners for each language will be announced at the end of the evening. First place will receive a plaque and \$50 and second place will receive \$20.

Adapted for Mt. San Antonio College, Language Learning Center from North Dakota State University Extension Service and 4H, "Making Your Interpretive Readings Come Alive" May 2016, accessed online.