General Instructions to Judges:

**Timing:** Contestants will use a kitchen timer, setting the timer at 10:01. The timer should start at the beginning of the presentation, timing down. When the presentation is completed, the judge will record the time showing on the timer (time remaining).

The contestant shall explore a theme by reading one or more selections taken from one or more of the following areas: drama, prose or poetry (including song lyrics). Singing is permitted.

The selections should be related; they should deal with the same general idea or theme. The relationship of the selections must be indicated by original material, which may be read, memorized or extemporized and include the title and author. Manuscripts must be held in hand. Hand and foot movements may not enhance the literature. Binder may not be used as a prop.

The mechanics of speech must be observed faithfully – poise, quality and use of voice, effectiveness and ease of gesture, emphasis, variety and enunciation. In addition, the contestant must be able to interpret the full meaning of the oration and be able to carry the interpretation over to the audience.

Presentations should be appropriate for all audiences.