



# MASSACHUSETTS MIDDLE SCHOOL SPEECH LEAGUE

## Interpretation of Free Verse/Poetry Response Ballot

Student Code \_\_\_\_\_ Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Round I II III F

Title of Selection/Author: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Time: \_\_\_\_\_

**Free Verse/Poetry:** A readily accessible selection of poetry or song lyrics; rhyming or not, delivered by a single performer from a required text (either from a single poem or a collection of poems, frequently referred to as a program). Poems combined in a program should be unified by some central element (e.g. author, subject, style or form). Poems or programs may feature rhyme, blank or free verse. This event is designated as a "reading" event, therefore the student should strive to bring the material to life using vocal skills, facial expressions, body postures and gestures while movement around the presentation area should be minimal. Students are required to provide brief introductory remarks at some point, which must at least identify the title(s) and author of the work(s).

**Time limit: 7 minutes with a 30-second grace period. Judges should offer to provide visual time signals.**

During this performance the student demonstrates the following skills:	Excellent Throughout	Usually	Some -times	Improve Here
ENGAGING PERSONA(S): creates interest and holds your attention. Invites you with their eyes to listen to their performance.				
POETIC LANGUAGE: demonstrates and expresses the author's use of imagery, rhythm, similes, metaphors, symbolism, and sounds.				
VOCAL VARIATION: effectively varies volume, pitch, speaking rate, tone, pauses, emphasis and mood.				
PHYSICAL VARIETY: uses and varies facial expressions, gestures, and body language to enhance their performance.				
DISTINCT POINTS OF VIEW: if performing a program of poems, the presenter creates distinguishable and separate narrators for each poem selected.				
<b>Based on your choices above, suggest a specific improvement this student could make to better their performance.</b>				
<b>Based on your choices above, describe a specific outstanding part of this student's performance.</b>				

Please use the space below to write your observations and comments *while* the student is presenting. Students welcome your additional responses here and on the back of this page. Thank you!

Judge's Code \_\_\_\_\_ Judge's School: \_\_\_\_\_ Judge's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Students who speak beyond 7minutes, 30seconds may not be ranked 1st.

Check here if over 7:30 ☐

PLEASE DO NOT TIE STUDENTS IN EITHER RANK OR RATING

Rank (1st-9th) \_\_\_\_\_

80-85 Fair      86-90 Good      91-95 Excellent      96-100 Superior

Rating (100-80) \_\_\_\_\_