Communication Studies 415: Teaching Methods
Dr. Hest

<u>Overview of an Oral Interpretation Unit: Considerations for Teaching/Coaching</u>
Potential Teaching/Topic Areas

- Introduction to Oral Interpretation
    - A Rationale for Oral Interpretation
    - Sources of Material
    - Choosing a Selection: Consider Universality, Individuality, Suggestion
      For Forensics - Avoid over-used selections

- Analyzing the Selection
    - Structure – plot, scenes, stanzas, chapters, etc.
    - Aesthetics – words, phrasing, description, tone, etc.
    - Synthesis – unity, theme

- Finding Selections
    - Online Sources
    - Anthologies, Novels, Plays, Poetry Books
    - Magazines

- Considerations in Choosing a Selection
    - What interests you?
    - What will fit the time limit and requirements?
    - What would be interesting and appropriate for your listeners?
    - Is this a manageable selection for me – how many characters are there, do
      they have accents, do I understand the theme(s), etc.?
    - For Forensics - what are the State High School League Rules?

- Use of Voice in Oral Interpretation
    - Volume, Pitch, Rate, Projections
    - Pronunciation, Articulation

- Use of Body in Oral Interpretation
    - Posture/Muscle Tone
    - Gestures
    - Facial Expressions
    - Rehearsal

- Types of Interpretation
    - Prose (short story or exerpt from a longer novel)
    - Poetry (one or more poems)
    - Drama (cutting from a play)
    - Group Performances (Reader's Theatre)
    - Organizing a Program of Oral Interp selections on a common theme

- Analysis of a Selection
  - Read the Entire Work Carefully
  - Research any Terms, References, etc. that are Unfamiliar
  - What is the subject – What is the Selection About?
  - What is the Setting, Location, Era
  - Who are the Characters, How many are there, How are they connected to each other, What are they like?
  - What is the Mood, Theme of the Selection?

- Preparing an Oral Interpretation Presentation
  - Writing Introductions
  - Script Preparation
    - Cut inappropriate words or phrases
    - Long, descriptive passages can be cut if need be
    - Minor characters can be cut
    - In prose selections, tags like "he said" or "she replied" can be cut (different characters should be indicated vocally)
    - Type triple-spaced
    - Mark script with performance cues
    - Mount on black paper or in small black binder
  - Performance Preparation