Welcome to Oral Interpretation!

What is oral interpretation? Oral interpretation is the performance of literature, sometimes like acting and on occasion like storytelling. It is slam poetry and personal narrative. It can be mime or broadcast storytelling. Since Greek playwrights wrote scripts that moved audiences to tears in Athens to Japanese Kabuki theatre to modern American sign language poetry, oral interpretation is an umbrella that many styles of performance fall under.

This semester we will delve into the genres of literature and study them through performance and critique. We will tackle other people’s words and make them our own through character analysis, dissection, and speaking aloud.

By the end of the semester, I hope for you to be able to appreciate the quality and depth of work that performers must undertake, as you shall become one of them.

FOR PARENTS
*There is an attachment that needs to be separated, signed by you, and returned to me within two weeks.*

I could not be more excited to have the opportunity to work with your child. If there is anything you need, please do not hesitate to send an e-mail or call. It will be my goal to keep you informed of your child’s progress and to share important information with you about their development.

Switching Schedules
If your child intends to switch from the AM to PM or PM to AM class due to an outside school appointment or activity, please let me know no later than two days in advance.

Contact
E-mail: frankrivera@chaparralstaracademy.com
Phone: 512.989.2672

I would prefer e-mail as a first point of contact.

Conference Times
9:10 - 9:50 a.m.
12:50 - 1:30 p.m.
3:30 - 4:10 p.m.

Now, there is a chance I will not be in my classroom or even on campus -- teachers needs
lunch, too! Therefore, please call a day before to set up a meeting in person or allow till my next conference time for a returned phone call.

I would prefer to avoid before and after school meetings. If you have drive-by information or questions that can be discussed in front of students and faculty, I will be covering one of the main hallways during the noon changeover.

Grade Information

Grade Breakdown
30% - Performances  
20% - Performance Critiques  
25% - Classwork / Homework  
25% - Tests  

100%

Performances - 30%
The largest single portion of your grade will understandably be the two performances each six weeks that must be completed. In the third six weeks, the personal narrative will take the place of the performance and will look like whatever genre you will eventually be performing.

Grades will be assigned mostly on meeting specific, functional criteria: fitting within the time limit, possessing an introduction, etc.

Performance Critiques - 20%
You will analyze what strengths your fellow students brought to their performances and offer positive suggestions for opportunities for growth. By no means will you denigrate another’s work.

Classwork / Homework - 25%
There will be a modicum of homework and classwork. It will be scored as either full credit or zero credit.

Tests - 25%
Twice per six weeks, you will be tested over the information we have learned in preparation for your performances.

Policies and Procedures

Late Work
High School at Chaparral Star Academy does not allow homework to be turned in late. Do not
expect leeway. Chaparral Star Academy is a half day school where homework forms a large portion of the education. Not doing the work is tantamount to not showing up to class.

**Extra Credit**
There may be optional extra credit turned in to act as an additional test grade. No more than one assignment per six weeks. I will tell you about the assignment as the become available.

**Tardies and Absences**
Roll will be taken at ten minutes each class period. If a student is one to nine minutes late, they will be marked as tardy. If a student is ten or more minutes late, they will be marked as absent. If you need to use the restroom before class begins, drop your books on your desk and tell me; otherwise, you will be counted tardy or absent.

**Changing Classes for the Next Period or Release for End of Day**
You will be released 1 minute before the end of class.

Stay in your seats until I dismiss you.

Do not put away books, papers, or class materials until I dismiss you.

In other words, when it’s 4 minutes till the next class or end of the school day, don’t signal to me and the rest of the class that you’re ready to go by prepping your backpack.

**Using the Restroom**
You do not need to ask me to use the restroom or use any preordained hand signal. Please use the hall pass. Only one person is allowed out of the classroom at a time; so if someone else is out, wait your turn.

**Classroom Disruptions**
If you disrupt the learning environment, a series of steps will be put into place.

1. A verbal reminder to stay on task.
2. A warning that the next disruption will result in repercussions.
3. Moving to the circular table or black desk to remove you from distractions and refocus your efforts on the class learning.
4. You will be moved to another classroom.
5. A visit to the front office.

It is important to understand that involvement in steps 3-5 will be accompanied with a note home to your parents to explain the situation that must be signed.

Understand that depending on the severity of the disruption, steps may be skipped.
Detention
Detention will consist of at least 15 minutes and no more than 1 hour (depending on the severity of the infraction and/or the consistency of infractions) before or after school. Detentions will not be handed out on the same day, but a notice will be given to the parent of the detention-bound student informing them of when and where the time is to begin and end.

Bullying
...is unacceptable, be it social, physical, or academic. This is a learning environment, a safe environment. If you make another student feel less than welcome and supported, you will not be tolerated in the classroom until you can control your actions.

Course Outline
*ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE*

1st 6 Weeks
A: Prose Interpretation; August 26 - September 13
B: Poetry Interpretation; September 16 - October 4

2nd 6 Weeks
A: Dramatic Interpretation; October 7 - October 22
B: Duo Interpretation; October 23 - November 8

3rd 6 Weeks
A: Personal Narrative Text; November 11 - November 26
B: Performance of Personal Narrative; December 2 - December 20

Prose Interpretation, August 26 - September 13
- All selections from Tabloid Dreams.
- Selection chosen by September 3.
- Cutting completed by September 9.
- Performance on September 12 & 13.

Poetry Interpretation, September 16 - October 4
- Topic poems from The Outlaw Bible of American Poetry
- Initial poem chosen by September 18.
- Additional poems (no less than 3) chosen by September 23.
- Cuttings turned in by September 27.
- Performances on October 3 & 4.

Dramatic Interpretation, October 7 - October 22
- All selections from Three Viewings.
- Script selected by October 9.
• Script cutting by October 15.
• Performance on October 21 & 22.

Duo Interpretation, October 23 - November 8
• Script selection by October 25.
• Script cutting by November 1.
• Performances on November 8.

Personal Narrative, November 11 - November 26
• Written proposal for selection by November 13.
• Story outline by November 15.
• First draft by November 20.
• Second draft by November 22.
• Public reading on November 25.
• Third draft by November 26.

Performance of Personal Work, December 2 - December 20
• Description of performance vision by December 6.
• Performance memorized by December 13.
• Public performance on December 19 & 20. Probably subject to change due to final exam scheduling.

The Website

Web Address: http://frivera.chaparralstaracademy.com/

This will be a supplementary tool of the class. Check for daily homework assignments and messages, class notes, additional links to texts or material, rubrics, grading procedures, and more. I recommend bookmarking it at home on whichever computer you plan to use for homework.

That's it! Once again, I cannot exclaim how excited I am for this year. I hope you are, as well.

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I have seen and understood the class overview.

__________________________ parent signature   ___/___/___ date

__________________________ student signature   ___/___/___ date