Tips – A GREAT Memorized Prose Performance

Preparing your reading

Selecting your prose extract

• Try to find a passage which is a mini story in itself and includes a moment of dramatic tension in it.

• Select a passage that will amuse and entertain your audience, but which is also self-contained in itself.

• Select a piece that you can build to an effective climax, before bringing it to an end.

Understand the Passage

• Read and re-read the passage

• Be certain of exactly what the meaning is

• Understand individual words and the overall message

Punctuation

• Pay careful attention to the punctuation. Observe commas.

• Begin on a new vocal note for a new paragraph, which usually signals a new idea.

General text versus speech

• It is important to clearly separate the general text from the dialogue. This is done by introducing a very small pause before the dialogue.

• Where different characters are speaking it is worth considering using a different voice or accent.

Emphasis and Pausing

Criteria Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Prepared Reading

A. Visual (prop) - poster, power point, video, etc.

B. Verbal – interesting, tone, eye contact, project voice, posture, intonation, emphasis, clear, etc.

C. Analysis – short story devices, brief synopsis