



# BIBLICAL PROSE

**NOTE - THIS IS A DRAFT EDITION OF THE RULES. PLEASE CHECK [iarbc.org/equiprules](http://iarbc.org/equiprules) AT A LATER DATE. We do not anticipate major changes, nevertheless, the final version will be the one used for the competition.**

## Scripture Presentation

Biblical Prose (formerly known as Oral Interpretation of Scripture) involves memorizing and verbally reciting a passage of Scripture in an expressive and interpretive manner. You are to bring out the meaning of your text through your expressiveness and gestures, but without costumes or props. You are free to choose your passage of scripture, however the passage must be a continuous passage. Your presentation will be a memorized verbatim recitation of your selected text of Scripture.

Please use one of the following English translations of the Bible, and note which one you use in your bibliography (this list is in unprioritized, alphabetical order): ESV, HCSB(CSB), KJV(NKJV), NASB. Hand the Bible you used to memorize your passage to the judges.

## Bible Study

To be able to accurately and effectively recite your passage of Scripture, you will need to spend a significant amount of time studying the passage and consulting study materials such as commentaries and other Bible study resources. Prepare a one-page summary of your Bible study and a bibliography.

You must cite in your bibliography all the resources you consulted in preparation. A minimum of three entries in addition to your Bible(s) should be provided. Prepare your document for electronic delivery in either PDF or Word format.

There are various widely accepted formats for bibliographies including APA, MLA, Turabian, etc. A quick internet search will help you find a format and use it well. Whichever format you use, use it consistently. Types of references you may use include but are not limited to:

- Books
- Periodicals - published journals, magazines, newspapers
- Websites

## Introduction

You are to present a one-minute introduction to your passage. It should include the reference for your passage, the main point of the passage, and any other information that might help set the scene for the listener.

## Time

You will have eight to ten minutes to present your passage. You will be notified when you have one minute left, and you must stop when notified your time is complete.

## Impromptu Reading

Following your oral presentation, the judges will assign you a passage of scripture to read. You will have 30 seconds to look over the passage before you read it aloud. The impromptu reading will take one or two minutes.

## Preparation

You will want to enlist the help of your pastor or other biblical mentor to help you with study resources, and to coach you through the study process.

Understand what the author of Scripture intended the passage to mean. Use your resources and mentor(s) to aid in your understanding so you can effectively communicate it.

Familiarize yourself with the text by reading it aloud. Always rehearse aloud.

After you have a solid grasp of the text's meaning, and you have memorized the passage, add in facial expressions, gestures, and movements.

Record yourself so you can see and hear what your listeners will see and hear. Alter or remove any gestures or expressions that hinder the communication of the passage.

Utilize "aesthetic distance" by not making eye contact with the audience when speaking as a character from your text. In those moments, focus your eyes on a fixed point slightly above the heads of your audience, or elsewhere if it fits the monologue better. Return to making eye contact when you return to narrative.

Portray different characters by using unique points of aesthetic distance for each character, differing vocalizations, or varying gestures.

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## Scoring Criteria

- Interpretation (10 points) - proper understanding of the text communicated
- Introduction (10 points) - appropriateness, effectiveness, length, clarity, grammar
- Memorization (10 points) - accuracy
- Articulation/Projection (10 points) - pronunciation, clarity, breath support
- Vocal Expressiveness (10 points) - voice control, dynamic volume, characterizes the text, aids listener understanding
- Physical Expressiveness (10 points) - appropriate and natural gestures and facial expressions, characterizes the text, aids listener understanding
- Pacing and Flow (10 points) - smooth, interpretive, appropriate, effective
- Audience Connection (10 points) - eye contact, focus on audience
- Impromptu Reading (10 points)
- General Requirements (10 points) - Appropriate Attire (3 points), stayed within time constraints (3 points), all materials present (4 points for all, 2 points for partial)

## Church Ministry Statement

EQUIP exists to assist churches in their effort to '...equip the saints for the work of the ministry, for building up the body of Christ...' (Ephesians 4:12), therefore we require that participants present their passage at church or some other pastor-approved ministry. Fill out the Church Ministry Statement (found at [iarbc.org/equipsubmissions](http://iarbc.org/equipsubmissions)) including the date and location of your ministry presentation.

## Doctrinal Agreement

EQUIP is for 7th - 12th grade students who are members in good standing of a IARBC church. Students in 7th - 12th grade who are members in good standing of a non-IARBC church may participate if their pastor (or other church officer in the absence of a pastor) certifies that their church is in agreement with the doctrinal statement of the Iowa Association of Regular Baptist Churches. Certification of membership and doctrinal agreement is made on the Church Ministry Statement.

## Submissions

You will need to submit your written summary and bibliography electronically by following the instructions found at [iarbc.org/equipsubmissions](http://iarbc.org/equipsubmissions). The deadline will be two weeks before the competition date.

At the time of competition, you will need to hand the judges your completed Church Ministry Statement.

## Competition Attire

Attire guidelines for EQUIP will be considered "business casual." You may dress up more than the following guidelines, just do so in a manner that is sharp and modest. (For example, a young man wearing an oversized sport coat from his dad may technically be "dressier," but the same young man wearing an ironed button-down shirt that fits properly will look sharper.) Ladies: Select a modest outfit consisting of a shirt (not a t-shirt) with a skirt or dress pants. Gentlemen: Wear a collared shirt paired with dress pants or khakis with a belt. All clothing should be loose-fitting, though not necessarily baggy. Our desire at EQUIP is that our attire would be modest and undistracting.

## Division Differences

Division 3 students (grade 7-8) will have six to eight minutes for the presentation.

## More Information

Additional important competition information regarding registration, scholarships, division definitions, and more can be found at [iarbc.org/equip](http://iarbc.org/equip)