

How to Write an Interp Intro

The most important thing you need when writing your intro is an answer to the question:
“What do I want my audience to take away from my performance?”

This is the central idea your intro needs to convey. So ask yourself: What lesson does my piece teach? What ideas might it spark? How can watching my piece make an audience member a better person? Once you know that, write it here:

Now you have your theme. Once you have your theme, writing an intro is not difficult. You’re looking to have about a paragraph that introduces that audience “take away”. There are a few components all intros should have, and once you’ve got those, it’s just a matter of putting them together, tweaking your language, and memorizing.

1. Significance line - What makes your take away important? Often this is a statistic or quotation.
2. Credibility - Who or what makes us believe the significance is real? Cite your statistic, quotation, theory.

Now, write your intro. Fill in these parts:

AGD (Attention Grabbing Device) - Start with a bang. Often this means putting your significance line up top, but not always. Lay to your take-away’s strengths.

Significance Line - if you haven’t put it in yet, this is where it goes.

Credibility comes next.

Small explanation (1-2 sentences tops) where you discuss with your audience how important the theme of the piece is. This answers the question, “Why should I bother to listen to you?”

The ‘Zinger’ - this is the last line, the part that really makes your audience think about you, your piece, and how it applies to their life. Sometimes this is a question posed directly to the audience. Often it contains the words “you” or “we.”

This might seem like a lot, but the entire process is 5-7 sentences. Don’t get intimidated, and don’t hesitate to ask your coaches and teammates for help. We will edit it together! Just get something on paper.