



# A Judge's Tip Sheet.

**W**e're providing this sheet for you to refer to as part of the judging process. We recognize that to completely, fairly, and accurately judge so many scenes, especially when so much talent is so extraordinarily similar, is one of the most difficult jobs anyone can do. That's why we consider your job to be the most important to the success of the competition. In order for this to be a good experience for you (and we want it to be - especially if you're a good judge, we want you back!) and an inspiring and educational experience for the students, we'd like you to refer to these tips. And, as always, if you have ANY questions, see the tournament coordinator.

**Tip 1) Stick to the ballot.** Judge the scenes based on the criteria established in the scoring guide on the judge's ballot. You are encouraged to make comments, but please do so in respect to the descriptors on the ballot. You are not judging the material nor the student's (more likely the advisor's) interpretation, but the actor's skill and talent.

**Tip 2) Be comfortable that not everyone's going to agree with you.** Some judge's can be reticent about scoring scenes because they don't want to offend the performer nor the sponsor. Your job is to call the scene as you see it, based on the guidelines we've provided for you on the ballots. Stick to the descriptors on the ballots and react as fairly and as objectively as possible. Some other judge may see it differently and score completely opposite of you. History shows that some performances will inspire like scores from all three judges, others will be inconsistent.

**Judges: Consider attending the Judge's Training Workshop.** You'll get reimbursed for mileage and we'll cater lunch. As well, you'll receive double the normal honorarium for judging at the Regional Competitions and be eligible to judge the State Showcase as well. Typically, the training happens the second Saturday in December

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**Tip 3) Winning isn't the most important thing, learning something is.** Though this often gets lost during day, the reason for the competition is not "to beat out the competition", but for students to showcase their talent in front of peers who are mutually motivated. The focus shouldn't be on you as the ultimate judge, but on the level of concern the event raises in the student and how that energy can bring about new and profound performances. Winners rarely are "the best", just the most consistent and the showcase is an opportunity to see extraordinary student work, not a pageant of winners over losers. Thus, your comments should reflect this philosophy by encouraging the student's growth in performance rather than in relation to or in competition with others.

**Tip 4) Judge the acting, not the scene.** If you think the material is inappropriate, stop and consider first "is the material inappropriate or is it inappropriate FOR THIS PERFORMER?" The latter is what we're interested in you judging. If you personally find a situation or language distasteful, please separate your personal bias from your job as a judge. Experienced students, in particular, often have extraordinary abilities to bring truth & relevance to "adult" themes and skill & polish to difficult material. Their performance should not be penalized because it does not meet your personal tastes or standards of how teenagers should "act." However, if a student is using material inappropriately, then their score should reflect that; note the descriptors concerning ability level of the performer as it relates to the material the student is performing in the "Preparation" section on the ballot. Part of the skill of the competition is to select material that showcases the performers' outstanding qualities.

**Tip 5) Don't disqualify students over questionable use of props or clothing.** Though we go to great lengths to define what is and what isn't appropriate props or clothing, it's not up to you to decide. **REMEMBER, STICK TO THE BALLOT.** If you suspicion that students are using inappropriate props or a "costume" please report it to the tournament coordinator - there is a committee established to rule on this matter. If you penalize the competitor's score because of a prop, but later it's determined by the committee that the prop was acceptable, the student has no score that is a reflection of his performance.

