



Guidelines for Coaches and Students

Material

- All selections must be from the plays of William Shakespeare.
- Monologues must be 1.5 to 3 minutes.
- Duo/Trio Scenes must be 3 to 5 minutes.
- Timing begins after the introduction. Any participant going more than fifteen seconds under time or over time will be penalized in the final tabulation of their score.
- For monologues, feel free to combine two or more short speeches from the same scene or make an internal cut, as long as connections are smooth and logical. Internal cuts are allowed in scenes as well.

Preparing

- Seek roles that you connect with and material you feel comfortable with.
- Discover what your character wants and who he/she wants it from. In playing the scene, fight for it, using the words as one of the primary mechanisms for achieving that aim.
- Make sure you are familiar with the whole play and know it well.
- Memorize your piece and perform it multiple times for people prior to filming for the competition. Prompting or starting over will not be permitted.
- For monologues: Do not direct your focus to the camera. A downstage focus to the slight left or right of the camera is best.
- Simple staging is best. A chair is permitted to be used.
- Props should not be used unless it is essential to the action and something you might normally wear or carry such as a handkerchief, a watch, a letter in your pocket, a scarf, a jacket, etc.
- Students should speak clearly but naturally. We want to hear your own voice rather than an affected British accent.

Format

- You will be assigned a Participant Number such as "B15" which should be used in your introduction rather than your name.
Sample Monologue Introduction: "Hello I am B15. My piece is from Hamlet, Act 1 Scene 2 and I will be playing Claudius."
Sample Scene Introduction: "Hello we are B16. Our scene is from Measure for Measure, Act 3 Scene 1. I will be playing Isabella and I will be playing Claudio."

Evaluation

- Each participant will receive written feedback on their work.
- Adjudicators will observe voice, movement, character, and text.
- Each element will contribute to the overall effectiveness rating of Superior, Excellent, Good, or Fair.
- Participants will also receive a numerical ranking within their panel in order of excellence with 1 being the highest.
- Adjudicators will nominate candidates to be featured in the Showcase.
- The Showcase is not necessarily an indicator of final competition placement. Adjudicators select pieces that are in some way unique and of distinctive value for all students present to observe.
- The Showcase will aid in determining scholarship recipients.

What to Wear

- Dress should be neat, comfortable, presentable, and relatively conservative. Do not try to costume yourself, yet be mindful of what your character would or would not wear.
- A dress shirt, blouse or sweater, slacks, or solid colored dress/skirt and flat shoes work well.
- Make sure your hair is off your face and you are not wearing any dangling or distracting jewelry.