



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 in two of the three rounds 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 the competition. Prompting or starting over will not be permitted.
- For monologues: Do not direct your focus to the adjudicator. A downstage focus to the slight left or right over the adjudicator's head is best.
- Simple staging is best. A chair will be available for you to use.
- 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 perform three times at the competition – once in each of three rounds.
- Each round is split into Panel A and Panel B. The first 45 minutes of the round, Panel A will present their pieces and then the adjudicator will give feedback. The second 45 minutes of the round are then for Panel B to present and receive their feedback.
- 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."
- Please wait for the adjudicator to write this information down and invite you to begin.
- After you perform, transition out of character and say, "Thank you," and return to your seat.
- Coaches, parents, classmates and friends are welcome to observe in each Round as long as they maintain a quiet respect for each of the participants. Clapping and cheering is not permitted.

Evaluation

- Each participant will receive written and oral feedback on their work.
- Adjudicators will be observing 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.
- These two scores from each of the three Rounds will be tabulated to establish final competition placement.
- Throughout the day, adjudicators will be nominating candidates to present their piece 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 and Bring

- 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.
- For men: A dress shirt or sweater and slacks work well.
- For women: A blouse, skirt, or solid-colored dress or slacks, and flat shoes work well.
- Make sure your hair is off your face and you are not wearing any dangling or distracting jewelry.
- You will be traveling to different buildings on the DeSales University campus throughout the day. Bring comfortable shoes and appropriate seasonal outerwear.
- The cafeteria at the University Center will be closed or have limited offerings due to Spring Break. As the schedule allows 45 minutes for lunch, we recommend that you pack your meal.