

SCOTIE



STUDENT JUDGES' MANUAL

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Congratulations on being selected by your speech coach to be a Student Judge at the SCOTIE Tournament of Champions. Your coach selected you because of your talent, enthusiasm, and objectivity; hopefully, this judging will be fun and rewarding! The use of Student Judges allows more students to take an active role in the SCOTIE Tournament of Champions.

This tournament is unlike many others in that you will not be ranking the competitors as first, second, third, etc. Instead, you will be “rating” them as Superior, Excellent, Good, or Fair. In a single round, you might have five Superiors and only one Good. Or you might have only one Superior, three Excellents, and one Fair. You are not limited in the number of Superiors you award; please keep in mind that every student competing in this tournament had to earn an overall First Place at a Varsity or Novice Tournament. Therefore, the overall level of outstanding performances should be extremely high.

Don't be afraid of awarding too many “high ratings”; remember that all of the people you are judging have already proved themselves to be champions. Your ratings will be added to those of Adult Judges. Usually, students are rated by five Adults and three Student Judges; from these ratings, performers must accumulate five Superior ratings to receive the SCOTIE Keychain Award. You can take pride in the fact that you have been a part of helping many students achieve this goal.

Special awards are also going to be presented to select Student Judges who write especially good critiques. By writing good critiques, you help both the competitors and yourself.

The following is a list of general guidelines to help you in your very important judging tasks:

1. Write the type of critique you want to receive from a judge!
2. Make your comments as specific as possible, using appropriate examples from the performance. (This helps the contestant know that you really did pay close attention, and it helps the contestant know where he/she specifically needed to be louder, more intense, more dynamic, etc.)
3. Remember that the competitor and his/her coach will read the critiques. Also, your coach will receive a copy of all the critiques you write.
4. Be sure to judge the actual performance, not whether or not you like the material being performed. (You may consider the difficulty of the material, however.)
5. Be sure you look over the rules for each event, as illustrated on the attached critique sheets; please only judge the performance on the basis of the actual rules, not on

individual interpretation of them. If you have a question about the rules, please discuss this with someone in the Tab room before rating the contestants in your round.

6. Be reasonable about time limits. Time is only one consideration. Students going significantly over time (one minute or more) obviously have more time to develop a performance than someone who stays within the time limits. Students who are under time (two minutes or more) have less pressure to sustain a mood and overall performance. Radio has special time rules.
7. NEVER stop a performance for any reason.
8. You may write your critique while the performer is performing, but you need to be sure to look up enough that you can actually comment on facial expressions, eye contact, gestures, etc. You must see them to comment on them. The disadvantage to waiting until the end of the performance to write is that you may forget something important you wanted to say.
9. Be sure to maintain a “proper” atmosphere in the round. You are the judge and an important role model.
10. Try to write legibly so that the contestants will be able to read all of your important comments.
11. REMEMBER: this is not a time to “get back at” or use your “power” against competitors you don’t like or of whom you are jealous. Remain fair and objective so that we may continue to use Student Judges at this tournament.
12. At the end of the round, bring your completed critiques and rating card to headquarters; be sure that you have filled out all the necessary information and that you have signed the rating card and each critique sheet.
13. Be sure that you are on time for all rounds and that you start them promptly. Do not start without another judge there.
14. Your “rating” should not be revealed to the contestants or to anyone else until the end of the tournament. You should not discuss ratings with other judges until after you have turned in your results.
15. If you are not scheduled to judge a particular round, please stop by the Tab Room/Headquarters to see if someone is needed to cover a round where a judge hasn’t arrived yet.

You will find a sample critique sheet for each of the 13 IHSA Individual Events and the Pilot Events. Each critique lists the specific criteria to be used in judging that event. Please review these carefully. Your Student Judge Critiques do not list these criteria, but you should use them when writing your comments. At the end of the packet you will find two sample-completed critiques; first you will see the “poor critique” and then you will see a well-written critique.

If you have questions, please ask! We want your experience as a Student Judge to be a great one. We also want contestants you judge to see your judging as a positive experience. Have a great tournament.



Dramatic or Humorous Duet Acting

Contestants' Names: _____

Code: _____

Title of Selection: _____

Round: _____

Time of the Actual Performance: _____

Section: _____

RATING:

Superior

Excellent

Good

Fair

Criteria marked + are positive factors in my decision:

Criteria marked – are negative factors in my decision:

1. The introduction should name the work and author and give the audience all necessary background information to establish the mood of the scene.
2. Eye contact should be direct and comprehensive during the introduction.
3. A table and two chairs are the only “props” allowed. Standing on table/chairs is not permitted. Costumes, make-up, and sound effects are not permitted. Clothing may not be used as a prop.
4. Characters may speak to offstage or silent characters but must not portray more than one character each.
5. There should be clear communication of the mood, or idea of the work as a whole.
6. Movement should flow naturally from the characters, giving proper focus to action and reaction.
7. Character should be maintained throughout the performance.
8. The memorization should be natural and effective.
9. The actors should use vocal variety to facilitate and enhance the performance.
 - a. They should vary pitch, volume, rate, and voice quality.
 - b. They should use pauses effectively.
 - c. They should articulate well as their characters.
10. The actors should demonstrate an awareness of the rise and fall of emotional subtext; they should effectively demonstrate changes in mood, motivation, etc., of their characters.
11. The time limit for this event is 8 minutes.

Specific comments begin below and continue on the reverse side.

Judge's Signature: _____ Judge's Code _____



Dramatic or Humorous Interpretation

Contestant's Name: _____ Code: _____

Title of Selection: _____ Round: _____

Time of the Actual Performance: _____ Section: _____

RATING:

Superior

Excellent

Good

Fair

Criteria marked + are positive factors in my decision:

Criteria marked – are negative factors in my decision:

1. The introduction should name the work and author and give the audience all necessary background information to establish the mood of the scene.
2. Eye contact should be direct and comprehensive during the introduction.
3. The memorization should be natural and effective.
4. Articulation, enunciation, and voice quality should enhance communication.
5. The selection should provide a reasonable depth of character and theme.
6. The performer should demonstrate an awareness of the rise and fall of emotional subtext.
7. One character plays, monologues, and soliloquies are allowed.
8. Characters should be clearly distinct from one another.
9. Character should be maintained throughout the performance.
10. Bodily suggestions, gestures, etc., should be used for each character; each character should exhibit "unique" characteristics.
11. The performer should use vocal variety in terms of pitch, rate, and volume to facilitate and enhance communication and mood.
12. There should be a clear communication of the mood, or idea as a whole.
13. The performance should show "builds" in the action.
14. The time limit for this event is 8 minutes.

Specific comments begin below and continue on the reverse side.

Judge's Signature: _____ Judge's Code _____



Extemporaneous Speaking

Contestant's Name: _____ Code: _____

Topic/Question: _____ Round: _____

Time of the Actual Performance: _____ Section: _____

RATING:

Superior

Excellent

Good

Fair

Criteria marked + are positive factors in my decision:

Criteria marked – are negative factors in my decision:

1. The speaker should use his/her introduction to establish ethos, introduce the topic, and identify the organization of the speech.
2. The speaker should adapt to the question he/she drew.
3. The speaker should demonstrate a knowledge of the topic and logical thought about its implications.
4. Organization should be a logical expression of ideas.
5. The speech should contain a reasonable amount of supportive data.
6. The speaker should exhibit effective use of language in his/her choice of words and phrasing.
7. Articulation, enunciation, and voice quality should enhance communication.
8. The speaker should demonstrate vocal variety in terms of rate, pitch, volume, and use of pauses.
9. Appearance should be pleasant and not distracting.
10. When notes are used, they should be used skillfully.
11. Gestures should be used to enhance meaning.
12. Facial expressions and eye contact should be natural, appropriate, and effective.
13. The speaker should be poised and enthusiastic.
14. The time limit for this event is 6 minutes.

Specific comments begin below and continue on the reverse side.

Judge's Signature: _____ Judge's Code _____



Impromptu Speaking

Contestant's Name: _____ Code: _____

Topic: _____ Round: _____

Time used to prep: _____ Total Time: _____ Section: _____

RATING:

Superior

Excellent

Good

Fair

Criteria marked + are positive factors in my decision:

Criteria marked – are negative factors in my decision:

1. The speaker should use his/her introduction to establish ethos, introduce the topic, and identify the organization of the speech.
2. The speaker should adapt creatively to the topic.
3. Organization should be a logical expression of ideas.
4. The speaker should exhibit effective use of language in choice of words and phrasing.
5. Articulation, enunciation, and vocal quality should enhance communication.
6. The speaker should demonstrate vocal variety in terms of rate, pitch, volume, and use of pauses.
7. Gestures should be used to enhance meaning.
8. Facial expressions and eye contact should be natural, appropriate, and effective.
9. The speaker should be poised and enthusiastic.
10. The speaker should use prep time and speaking time effectively.
11. If the speaker uses a note card, it should be used effectively.
12. The speaker should use ample examples, stories, anecdotes, explanations, etc., to support and develop his/her ideas.
13. The TOTAL TIME for this speech is 8 minutes; students may divide the time however they choose to do so between preparing and speaking. Standards of excellence suggest a longer speaking time than prep time.

Specific comments begin below and continue on the reverse side.

Judge's Signature: _____ Judge's Code _____



Original Comedy

Contestant's Name: _____ Code: _____

Title of Selection: _____ Round: _____

Time of the Actual Performance: _____ Section: _____

RATING

Superior

Excellent

Good

Fair

Criteria marked + are positive factors in my decision:

Criteria marked – are negative factors in my decision:

1. The introduction should introduce the setting and characters and give any necessary background information.
2. The speech/performance should have a unifying idea.
3. There is no restriction on form as long as the material is original.
4. Organization should be a logical expression of ideas.
5. The delivery should be natural.
6. The speaker should be poised and enthusiastic.
7. The speaker should exhibit effective use of language in his/her choice of words or phrasing.
8. If the selection includes dialogue, characters should be distinct from one another.
9. Articulation, enunciation, and vocal quality should enhance the performance.
10. The speaker should demonstrate vocal variety in terms of rate, pitch, volume, and the use of pauses.
11. Pantomime and bodily expression should enhance meaning.
12. Facial expression and eye contact should be natural, appropriate, and effective.
13. Neither the speakers' delivery nor his content should overshadow the other; both are significant parts of the total performance.
14. The time limit for this event is 8 minutes.

Specific comments begin below and continue on the reverse side.

Judge's Signature: _____ Judge's Code _____



Oratorical Declamation

Contestant's Name: _____ Code: _____

Title of the Selection: _____ Round: _____

Time of the Actual Performance: _____ Section: _____

RATING:

Superior

Excellent

Good

Fair

Criteria marked + are positive factors in my decision:

Criteria marked – are negative factors in my decision:

1. The introduction should name the work and the author, give the audience all necessary background information, and establish the mood of the work.
2. The selection should be pertinent to current issues and originally prepared by another person.
3. Declamation is the oral interpretation of a previously delivered "speech"; however, other persuasive and inspirational materials may be presented in addition to speeches.
4. Bodily suggestion should be used effectively.
5. The speaker should use vocal variety in terms of pitch, rate, volume, and use of pauses.
6. Articulation, enunciation, and vocal quality should enhance communication.
7. The memorization should be natural and effective.
8. Eye contact should be direct, comprehensive, and effective.
9. The performance should demonstrate good "public speaking" skills.
10. There should be a clear communication of the mood, or idea as a whole.
11. The speaker should demonstrate an awareness of the rise and fall of the emotional subtext.
12. The time for this event is 8 minutes.

Specific comments begin below and continue on the reverse side.

Judge's Signature: _____ Judge's Code _____



Original Oratory

Contestant's Name: _____ Code: _____

Title of the Selection: _____ Round: _____

Time of the Actual Performance: _____ Section: _____

RATING:

Superior

Excellent

Good

Fair

Criteria marked + are positive factors in my decision:

Criteria marked – are negative factors in my decision:

1. The introduction should name the work and the author, give the audience all necessary background information, and establish the mood of the work.
2. The speaker should be addressing a relatively current issue.
3. Organization should be a logical expression of ideas.
4. The speech should contain sufficient specific supportive data.
5. The presentation should be natural in terms of delivery.
6. The speaker should exhibit effective use of language in his/her choice of words and phrasing.
7. The speaker should be poised and enthusiastic.
8. Appearance should be pleasant and not distracting.
9. Articulation, enunciation, and vocal quality should enhance communication.
10. The speaker should demonstrate vocal variety in terms of rate, pitch, volume, and use of pauses.
11. Gestures should be used to enhance meaning.
12. Facial expressions and eye contact should be natural, appropriate, and effective.
13. Neither the speaker's content nor his/her delivery should overshadow the other; both are significant parts of the performance.
14. The time limit for this event is 8 minutes.

Specific comments begin below and continue on the reverse side.

Judge's Signature: _____ Judge's Code _____



Prose Reading

Contestant's Name: _____ Code: _____

Title of Selection: _____ Round: _____

Time of the Actual Performance: _____ Section: _____

RATING

Superior

Excellent

Good

Fair

Criteria marked + are positive factors in my decision:

Criteria marked – are negative factors in my decision:

1. The introduction should name the work, the author, give the audience necessary background information, as well as establish the mood of the work.
2. Eye contact should be direct and comprehensive. There should be eye contact during the introduction; there should be sufficient familiarity with the text.
3. If the selection includes dialogue, characters should be distinct from one another.
4. The dialogue must not be more than 50% of the script; the judge may ask to see the script to verify.
5. There should be clear communication of the idea or mood of the script as a whole.
6. Bodily suggestion should be used to enhance the performance.
7. The contestant should have vocal variety in terms of rate, pitch, tone, volume, and use of pauses.
8. Articulation, enunciation, and vocal quality should enhance communication.
9. The reader should demonstrate an awareness of the rise and fall of the emotional subtext.
10. Handling of the actual script should not distract from the reading.
11. The time limit for this event is 8 minutes.

Specific comments begin below and continue on the reverse side.

Judge's Signature: _____ Judge's Code _____



Radio Speaking

Contestant's Name: _____ Code: _____

Title of Selection: _____ Round: _____

Time of the Actual Performance: _____ Section: _____

RATING:

Superior

Excellent

Good

Fair

Criteria marked + are positive factors in my decision:

Criteria marked – are negative factors in my decision:

1. The lead-in should be lively and energetic; the sign-on should be smooth and poised.
2. Organization should be a logical progression of ideas; for example: international news, national news, state news, commercial, sports, weather, sign-off.
3. The broadcast should demonstrate a balance in time devoted to various news items in keeping with their importance.
4. The speaker should move from one item to the next with appropriate transitions.
5. The speaker should demonstrate vocal variety in terms of volume, rate, pitch, and use of pauses.
6. Vocal quality should be full-bodied and pleasant.
7. The speaker should use a persuasive tone in his/her commercial; the commercial should be placed in a logical and effective place in terms of that particular broadcast.
8. The speaker should be poised and enthusiastic.
9. Articulation, enunciation, and vocal quality should enhance communication.
10. The speaker should exhibit effective use of language in his/her choice of words and phrasing.
11. Extraneous noise should be avoided in the use of the microphone.
12. Violators of the time limit should be ranked down.
13. The time limit for this event is 4:50-5:05.

Specific comments begin below and continue on the reverse side.

Judge's Signature: _____ Judge's Code _____



Special Occasion Speaking

Contestant's Name: _____ Code: _____

Title of Selection: _____ Round: _____

Time of the Actual Performance: _____ Section: _____

RATING:

Superior

Excellent

Good

Fair

Criteria marked + are positive factors in my decision:

Criteria marked – are negative factors in my decision:

1. The speaker should use the opening to establish ethos, introduce the topic, make the central theme clear.
2. The speaker should be addressing a real group which currently functions, or a group that could be real and functioning.
3. The speaker should establish the occasion within the context of the speech and use clear logical structure.
4. The purpose of the speech should be to entertain while presenting a practical message.
5. The delivery of the presentation should be natural.
6. The speaker should exhibit effective use of language in his/her choice of words and phrasing.
7. The speaker should be poised and enthusiastic.
8. Articulation, enunciation, and voice quality should enhance communication.
9. The speaker should demonstrate vocal variety in terms of volume, pitch, rate, and use of pauses.
10. Gestures and eye contact should be natural and appropriate.
11. The time limit for this event is 8 minutes.

Specific comments begin below and continue on the reverse side.

Judge's Signature: _____ Judge's Code _____



Verse Reading

Contestant's Name: _____ Code: _____

Title of Selection: _____ Round: _____

Time of the Actual Performance: _____ Section: _____

RATING

Superior

Excellent

Good

Fair

Criteria marked + are positive factors in my decision:

Criteria marked – are negative factors in my decision:

1. The introduction should name the work, the author, give the audience necessary background information, as well as establish the mood of the work.
2. There should be unity in the program as a whole, made clear by the introduction and transitional materials (when multiple poems are presented).
3. The reader should demonstrate an awareness of the importance of imagery and sound devices in poetry by using pacing and pauses effectively.
4. Eye contact should be direct and comprehensive. There should be eye contact during the introduction; there should be sufficient familiarity with the text.
5. There should be clear communication of the idea or mood of the script as a whole.
6. Bodily suggestion should be used to enhance the performance.
7. The contestant should have vocal variety in terms of rate, pitch, tone, volume, and use of pauses.
8. Articulation, enunciation, and vocal quality should enhance communication.
9. The reader should demonstrate an awareness of the rise and fall of the emotional subtext.
10. Handling of the actual script should not distract from the reading.
11. The time limit for this event is 8 minutes.

Specific comments begin below and continue on the reverse side.

Judge's Signature: _____ Judge's Code _____



Improvisational Duet Acting

Contestants' Names: _____ Code: _____

Title of Selection: _____ Round: _____

Prep Time: _____ Total Time : _____ Section: _____

RATING:

Superior

Excellent

Good

Fair

Criteria marked + are positive factors in my decision:

Criteria marked – are negative factors in my decision:

1. The opening situation of the scene should establish the mood of the performance.
2. This is acting, not interpretation.
3. Characters may speak to offstage or silent characters but must not portray more than one character each.
4. A table and two chairs are the only “props” allowed.
5. Dialogue should be motivated by the predetermined situation.
6. The actors should create and resolve a conflict.
7. Movement should flow naturally from the characters, giving proper focus to action and reaction.
8. Character should be maintained throughout the performance.
9. There should be clear communication of the mood of the scene.
10. The actors should use vocal variety to facilitate and enhance the performance.
 - a. They should vary pitch, volume, rate, and voice quality.
 - b. They should use pauses effectively.
 - c. They should articulate well as their characters.
11. The actors should demonstrate an awareness of building to a climax of the scene.
12. An “introduction” is not required but may be used at the performers’ discretion.
13. Creativity and understanding of character motivations should be a major factor in evaluation.
14. Contestants should conform to the prescribed time limits (A maximum of one minute may be used to choose the scene. The remaining minutes should be used to plan and present the scene. The actual performance should be at least 3-5 minutes, or more.)

Specific comments begin below and continue on the reverse side.

Judge's Signature: _____ Judge's Code _____



Wretched Interpretation

Contestant's Name: _____ Code: _____

Title of Selection: _____ Round: _____

Time of the Actual Performance: _____ Section: _____

RATING:

Superior

Excellent

Good

Fair

Criteria marked + are positive factors in my decision:

Criteria marked – are negative factors in my decision:

1. The introduction should name the work and author and give the audience all necessary background information to establish the mood of the work
2. The ability to make the piece entertaining regardless of the quality of the "literature."
3. Eye contact should be direct and comprehensive during the introduction.
4. It may be performed by memory or a manuscript may be used **WITHOUT PENALTY**.
5. There should be a clear communication of the mood, or idea as a whole within the confines of wretched literature.
6. Articulation, enunciation, and voice quality should enhance communication.
7. Bodily suggestions, gestures, etc., should be used to enhance the performance.
8. The performer should use vocal variety in terms of pitch, rate, and volume to facilitate and enhance communication and mood.
9. Handling of the actual script should not distract from the reading.
10. The time limit for this event is 4 minutes (roughly).

Specific comments begin below and continue on the reverse side.

Judge's Signature: _____ Judge's Code _____



Original Prose/Original Poetry

Contestant's Name: _____ Code: _____

Title of Selection: _____ Round: _____

Time of the Actual Performance: _____ Section: _____

RATING

Superior

Excellent

Good

Fair

Criteria marked + are positive factors in my decision:

Criteria marked – are negative factors in my decision:

1. The introduction should name the title(s) and give the audience necessary background information, as well as establish the mood of the work.
2. There should be unity in the program as a whole, made clear by the introduction and transitional materials.
3. Eye contact should be direct and comprehensive.
4. Articulation, enunciation, and vocal quality should enhance communication.
5. The reader should demonstrate an awareness of the rise and fall of the emotional subtext.
6. Transitional material, if used, should demonstrate a use of language appropriate for the program.
7. Bodily suggestion should be used to enhance the performance.
8. The contestant should have vocal variety in terms of rate, pitch, tone, volume, and use of pauses.
9. There should be clear communication of the idea or mood of the script as a whole.
10. Handling of the actual script should not distract from the reading.
11. The poem/story should demonstrate a logical flow; the meaning of the poem/story should be made obvious by the reader.
12. The time limit for this event is 4 minutes.

Specific comments begin below and continue on the reverse side.

Judge's Signature: _____ Judge's Code _____