



Theater Contest Guidelines & Rubric

I. General Guidelines

A. Participants

1. This contest is not subdivided into *minores*, *maiores* and *optimates*.
2. Schools/Teams may submit 1 entry.
3. Thespians are limited to three in number.
4. Each thespian may portray more than one role, as best fits the play.

B. Content & Scripts

1. The play must be based on a classical work.
 - a) This may be a performance of a previously published Greek or Roman play.
 - b) This may be an original play based on Greek or Roman literature (including, but not exclusive to theater works).
2. The play should fall within 5 - 10 minutes.
 - a) Penalties will be imposed for plays falling outside this time frame.
3. Participants should bring a copy of the script to fine art registration at the tournament during initial school registration.
4. It is advisable to keep a spare copy of the script ready to present to the judges as needed.

C. Costumes & Props

1. Thespians may use costumes appropriate to their character.
2. Props are limited to hand held items only.
3. Stage items that require set up are not permitted.
4. Musical accompaniment can be brought with them, but is

the responsibility of the thespians. Neither HCU nor the Tournament will provide the accompaniment.

5. Costumes and props should be appropriate to the scene. They will be scored for the manner in which they are used, not for their level of opulence. Thus, we encourage cleverness and resourcefulness over expense.

II. Presentation

- A. Set up for the play is limited to one minute.
- B. One thespian should provide an introduction to the play of no more than 2 minutes.
 1. This should include a reference to the work and author (if known) from which the play draws its material.
 2. This should not state the names of the team or school or thespians.
 3. The time allotted for the introduction is not included in the total time allotment for the play.
- C. The play should fall within 5 - 10 minutes.
 1. Penalties will be imposed for plays falling outside this time frame.
- D. The thespians should present themselves before the judges at the end of their performance and take their bow, thus concluding the play.
- E. The thespians are responsible for clearing the stage and taking all of their belongings with them.

III. Rubric

See following page.

| CRITERIA | ELEMENTS | SCORE (1-5) |
|----------------------------|--|--------------------|
| Piece Selection | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Classical Work ● Script Provided (accuracy and clarity) | |
| Character Portrayal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Accuracy ● Believability ● Distinction of various roles | |
| Blocking and Props | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use of space ● Use of props (if any) ● Interaction of actors | |
| Diction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vocal clarity ● Pronunciation and enunciation | |
| Presentation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduction ● Stage Presence (poise/posture) ● General conduct and appearance | |
| Memorization | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Piece was memorized <p>These points should be omitted if the participants used scripts.</p> | |
| TOTAL SCORE: | | |