

## **ONE-ACT PLAY**

### PERFORMANCE EVENT

PLEASE REFER TO PLATFORM GENERAL GUIDELINES BEFORE PREPARING FOR THIS ENTRY.

Contestants must present an **original** play (written by students and/or sponsor) or an adaptation of a play (having given proper credit to the original author). See One-Act Play judging criteria.

1. The play must include at least two scenes.
2. Minimum of three (3) and maximum of five (5) players may be involved. Each player may be used to portray more than one character. Technicians, musicians, and all personnel needed for production will be counted in the five-contestant limit. The writer is NOT required to be a part of the cast. Females must play female roles; males must play male roles.
3. The play should depict or illustrate: (a) soulwinning, (b) Scriptural truths, (c) our Christian heritage, (d) defense of the Christian faith.
4. The play may NOT be: (a) musical, (b) Reader's Theater, (c) choral speaking.
5. Props and equipment must be provided by the contestants' school (i.e., extension cords, spots, sound effect equipment, furniture). NO firearms may be used unless they are rendered inoperative and this has been verified by security officers employed by the institution where competition is conducted. Discharge of blanks, caps, or any explosive is NOT permitted in play production.
6. No recorded speaking or singing will be permitted in play production.
7. Recorded sound effects WILL be accepted (background music, storms, animals, guns, etc.).
8. Scripts are to be memorized.

9. A five-minute limit is permitted for stage setting UNLESS other arrangements are made with the Chief Judge.

10. The time limit for the presentation is six (6) minutes minimum, ten (10) minutes maximum. If competition piece does not meet the six (6) minute minimum or exceeds the ten (10) minute maximum time limit, the contestant will receive a **.5-point deduction** for any portion of thirty (30) second increments outside the allotted time. (For example, a piece timed at 5:42 would receive a half-point deduction from the total score. A piece of 10:42 would receive a deduction of a full point from the total score.)

11. Backdrops and equipment should be able to fit in an area 10 feet deep by 16 feet wide, which will be marked on the stage.

### **HINTS FROM THE DRAMA JUDGES**

Drama is the way characters relate to one another. Therefore, the most important thing in your One-Act Play will be the convincing portrayal of characters. This is the essence of acting. All the elements of other speaking events apply to the actors in your one-act play: movement, gesture, voice inflection, diction, and variety.

Perhaps the hardest thing to master in acting is that appearance of spontaneity that makes the audience believe the scene is happening for the first time. To create spontaneity, study the way people react to things they hear, and then try to build those natural reactions in your characters.