

# Persuasive/Dramatics

## General Guidelines

Students appearing in any platform competition should observe the following important points, as they will enter into judging. Carelessness on these points could detract from an otherwise excellent presentation:

- **Appearance-** Dignity and good grooming should be apparent. Uniformity of dress is recommended for groups.
- **Props/Costumes-** All dummies, puppets, marionettes, and characters in plays should conform to WCA STUDENT CONVENTION dress and hair codes. (Obvious Exceptions: George Washington in powdered wig; Apostle Paul in robe, etc.)
- **Poise/Self-Confidence-**
  - Approach-* The approach is one of the most important elements in speaking, public reading, or singing. The contestant should walk confidently and briskly to the podium or front of the room and establish eye contact, pause for 5-10 seconds, and begin his presentation.
  - Eye Contact-* The contestant should establish rapport with the audience by good eye contact. He should avoid looking down often at his notes or Bible, at the ceiling, or out of the window. His eyes should move up and down, back and forth over the entire audience, slowly and naturally.
  - Posture and Gestures-* The rule for posture is DO NOT SLOUCH! The contestant should stand straight, but not lock his/her knees. Gestures should be free and flow naturally from enthusiasm. Natural movements are more effective than forced gestures.
  - Delivery-* The speaker should project his voice, using the diaphragm. Recreate the mood, experience, emotion, and feelings of the author. Employ voice variations and tempo.
- **Preparation-** Preparation and study are prerequisites for all speaking, reading, or musical performances. Research, organization, outline, and familiarity are the elements of preparation.
- **Platform Presentation-** Introduction of entry before the judges: Contestants in platform presentations are to give their first and last name and title of presentation distinctly (“My name is John Doe and the title of my oratory is....”). For entries involving more than one person a spokesman should be selected. NOTE TO JUDGES: This introduction is NOT to be counted as time against their presentation.
- **Memorization-** All selections and scripts must be memorized. *EXCEPTIONS:* Oral Arguments, Preaching, and Oratory contestants may use outline note cards.

## HINTS FROM PUBLIC SPEAKING JUDGES

In public speaking, the key word is CONVINCING! Whether you present a dramatic monologue, a famous speech, or a recitation, your task is to convince the listener that these are your words, your thoughts, and your feelings. If you are portraying a specific character, you should make the audience believe you really are that person. Many factors contribute to a convincing performance: costuming (if allowed), gestures, posture, voice inflection, and emotion. Match each carefully to your script and character. Perhaps the most frequent comments from the judges deal with “emotion.” Emotion should be carefully balanced. If you portray too little emotion, your performance will appear bland and colorless. If you portray too much emotion, you will appear harsh, phony, and overbearing. Also be careful that your emotion does not detract from clear, crisp, easily understood diction. The key: preparation and practice! Practice in front of a mirror and use every opportunity to perform before others.

## **(631-632) Dowel Rod Team** Small Groups (2-5), Large Groups (6 or more)

**Description:** A musical drama interpretation in which the message of a song is vividly portrayed in interpretive and drama form through the use of acting by a team. The interpreters may assume the roles depicted in the song through enhanced signs, actions, gestures & use of dowel rods.

1. The song used must comply with the WCA Convention Guidelines Statement of acceptable music.
2. Females must play female roles; males must play male roles.
3. The drama should depict or illustrate:
  - (a) soul winning
  - (b) Scriptural truths
  - (c) our Christian heritage
  - (d) defense of the Christian faith
  - (e) praise and worship.
4. Costumes are permissible.
5. A limit of one prop per player may be used. NO firearms may be used unless they are rendered inoperative by WCA Student Convention staff.
6. A five (5) minute limit is permitted for stage setting UNLESS prior arrangements are made.
7. The time limit for the presentation is 8 minutes.
8. Players and props should be able to fit in an area 10 feet deep by 16 feet wide.

### **PRESENTATION**

#### ***Stage Presence/ Stage Appearance***

- Performers should try to present a spirit of quiet confidence. Concentrate on delivering the message of the song being interpreted and acted out.
- Teams should try performing in an attractive formation. Give each interpreter/actor plenty of room. You may look at each other if doing so enhances interpretive communication and performance.

#### ***Entrance/Exit***

- Take some time to develop an orderly entrance and exit. Look positive from the time that you enter the performing area to the time that you leave.

#### ***Memorization***

- Do not rely on someone to give you cues. Do not rely on a fellow performer and simply “follow” his or her signing/acting. This allows most people a better opportunity to concentrate on the message of the performance.

#### ***Time Limit***

- Time your piece when you are selecting it. Choose a song that fits easily into the time limit. Cutting off a song before it is finished to make the time limit is often quite distracting.

### **HINTS FROM DRAMATICAL INTERPRETATION JUDGES**

In interpretation, the key word is MESSAGE! Whether you are interpreting or acting, your task is to deliver to the audience the message, emotion, and feeling of the song. It is a form of communication. Through sign-language and/or acting, you are communicating a message. If you are portraying a character, make the audience believe you are that person. Many factors contribute to a moving and convincing performance: costuming, gestures, posture, mime, sign-language, facial expression, and emotion. Match each carefully to the message of the song and/or the characters portrayed in the song. Emotion should be balanced. If you show too little emotion, your performance will appear bland and will not move the audience. On the other hand, do not use so much emotion that you distract the audience from the message of the song. The key is preparation and practice! Use every opportunity to perform before others and receive feedback on how you might improve.

# JUDGING CRITERIA

AREAS OF EVALUATION	POSSIBLE POINTS
<b>I. Interpreting</b>	
A. Ability to convey meaning through actions	10
B. Motions are continuous throughout song (no awkward gaps)	10
C. Expression (facial, body)	10
<b>II. Communication/Script</b>	
A. Choice of material (worthwhile message)	10
B. Dramatic Impact (message comes across effectively)	10
<b>III. Platform Performance</b>	
A. Approach/Departure	10
B. Unity of motion/control among members of group	10
C. Appearance/Dress	10
D. Confidence	10
E. Shows enthusiasm	10
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>100</b>

**Time limits:** Setup: Five minutes    Presentation: Eight minutes