THE BALLOT: AN EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

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HOW DOES A JUDGE MAKE THEIR BALLOT EDUCATIONAL?

- Write comments that have a PURPOSE
- Write comments that are MEANINGFUL

WHAT MAKES THEM MEANINGFUL?

When the Ballot contains……

comments that are SPECIFIC

comments that point out the POSITIVE

criticism that is expressed in a CONSIDERATE MANNER

NOT MEANINGFUL

"Good Job!"

MEANINGFUL WITH PURPOSE

"Good job on _____"

(fill in the blank and be specific!)

NOT MEANINGFUL

"Bad Selection choice"

"I would never choose this selection!"

MEANINGFUL WITH PURPOSE

"You have an interesting interpretation and one that I hadn't thought of before."

NOT MEANINGFUL

"Your introduction needs work."

MEANINGFUL WITH PURPOSE

"Category B requires that you tell the audience upfront in the introduction where you stand on the issue your performance will address. This information was not stated in your introduction."

MEANINGFUL WITH PURPOSE

"Your introduction doesn't tell us the theme of your performance program."

"Your introduction is too brief. Use it to get us prepared to listen to your selection(s) and to know where you stand on this issue."

NOT MEANINGFUL

”Introduction too stiff -- too performed.”

MEANINGFUL WITH PURPOSE

"The introduction is a time for us to meet YOU, the real person. We will meet your characters/speaker later, once you open your manuscript and your performance of the literature has begun. In the intro, use your natural, conversational voice. Don't be a character or dramatic; be yourself!"

NOT MEANINGFUL

"Transitions need work."

MEANINGFUL WITH PURPOSE

"Your verbal transitions are too long (or too short) and do not clearly tie the pieces together."

NOT MEANINGFUL

"Too slow"

MEANINGFUL WITH PURPOSE

"This scene (name specific part within the selection) needs to develop more through using a quicker pace to build intensity."

NOT MEANINGFUL

"You went too fast!"

MEANINGFUL WITH PURPOSE

"You seemed to be rushing the selection to stay within the time requirement. Consider using less of the cutting and giving your literary work time to develop. Look for scenes that are not essential to the meaning or flow of the storyline and eliminate those."

NOT MEANINGFUL

"Characters were clear."

MEANINGFUL WITH PURPOSE

"You had well-developed characters. They exhibited distinct qualities that distinguished each of them from each other, making them individuals."

NOT MEANINGFUL

"Gestures were distractive."

MEANINGFUL WITH PURPOSE

"Your gestures should be appropriate to your characters. Work to make them natural and less planned. You relied heavily on your right hand to gesture – be careful not to overdo it. Watch a video of your performance without the sound, focusing only on your body language. Evaluate what is effective and what is distractive."

MEANINGFUL WITH PURPOSE

Your body language was excessive at times. When you reached up to catch the raindrop, I felt your physical action overshadowed the spoken word."

NOT MEANINGFUL

"You need to be more poised."

MEANINGFUL WITH PURPOSE

"When you approach the front of the room, stand with confidence. Own your space. Use your eye contact to survey the entire audience before you begin. This is YOUR TIME! Make it your own!"

NOT MEANINGFUL

"Work on imagery."

MEANINGFUL WITH PURPOSE

"Help us see what YOU see. As you practice, search for words in the literature that sound like what they mean (imagery), mark them in your manuscript and then emphasize those orally so that you (and your audience!) totally see what is happening or who you are describing."

NOT MEANINGFUL

"Bookwork needs to improve."

MEANINGFUL WITH PURPOSE

"Make sure the manuscript does not distract from the performance. Hold your binder in more of a "V" shape than an "L" or flat. Pull the folder closer to your body."

MEANINGFUL WITH PURPOSE

"Hold your book steady and incorporate page turns as a natural part of the performance. If you pause when turning the page, it should be for transitional purposes. (example – a passage of time). Otherwise, page turns should be a fluid part of the performance."

NOT MEANINGFUL

"*Don't rush the ending!*"

MEANINGFUL WITH PURPOSE

"When you read the final sentence of your piece, hold that position for at least 3 seconds before you slowly and quietly close your binder. Never snap your binder shut. Give the audience time to be ready to let go."

NOT MEANINGFUL

"Congratulations! You met the category requirements!"

MEANINGFUL WITH PURPOSE

"The performer thoroughly explained that anxiety has become an important factor in teens' lives as they become more stressed at a much earlier age."

"The performer had a passion for this topic and galvanized me to stand up and take action with them to fight the problem of _____ (personalize: name their issue)."

JUSTIFY YOUR BALLOT

Comments need to be CONSISTENT with the RANK.

BALANCE the positive and the negative.

Use DESCRIPTIVE rather than evaluative statements.

Give the contestant a GOAL.

Will your ballot help the student IMPROVE?

TO MAKE YOUR BALLOT AN EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE FOR THE CONTESTANT:

- Be CONCISE
- Be CONSIDERATE
- Be SPECIFIC

QUESTIONS?

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