



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

“Poor 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 in your introduction why you chose the literature. This information was not stated in your introduction.”



MEANINGFUL WITH PURPOSE

“Your introduction doesn’t connect the literature you chose to the goal of the category.”

“Your introduction is too brief. Expand it by explaining what goal of the category you will be exploring in your program. Are you exploring your ancestry? Your heritage? Your dreams for the future? Sharing this in the opening is critical to give purpose to the performance.”



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 later, once you open your binder and your performance of the literature itself has begun.”



MEANINGFUL WITH PURPOSE

“In the intro, use your natural, conversational voice. Don’t perform it. Your delivery seemed overly dramatic; just 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 different pieces together.”



NOT MEANINGFUL

“Too slow”



MEANINGFUL WITH PURPOSE

“This scene (name specific part within the selection) needs to develop more. That can be done by using a quicker pace in order to build intensity.”



NOT MEANINGFUL

“You went too fast!”



MEANINGFUL WITH PURPOSE

“You seemed to be rushing the selection. Recommendation: Use less of the cutting so your performance has time to develop. Cut scenes that are not essential to the storyline.” (or suggest a scene that could be cut)



NOT MEANINGFUL

“Characters were clear.”



MEANINGFUL WITH PURPOSE

“You had well-developed, round characters. They all had unique qualities that distinguished one from the other.”



NOT MEANINGFUL

“Gestures were distracting.”



MEANINGFUL WITH PURPOSE

“Your gestures should be appropriate to your characters, 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 distracting.”



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, balance your weight on both feet and stand with confidence. Use your eye contact to survey the entire audience before you begin so you 'command the room'.



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!) truly see what you are describing.”



NOT MEANINGFUL

“Bookwork needs to improve.”



MEANINGFUL WITH PURPOSE

“Hold your binder in a “V” shape rather than flat. Pull it closer to your body so the manuscript does not distract from the performance.”



MEANINGFUL WITH PURPOSE

“Make your page turns fluid — a natural part of the performance. If you pause when turning the page, it should be for transitional purposes. (example – a passage of time).”



NOT MEANINGFUL

“Don’t rush the ending!”



MEANINGFUL WITH PURPOSE

“When you read the final line of your piece, hold your body position/focus 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

“Your performance provided such depth and detail about your Scottish ancestry. The interview with your grandmother was particularly stirring as she shared your ancestors’ perilous journey from Scotland to America to fulfill the dreams of a new life.”



JUSTIFY YOUR BALLOT

Make sure your **COMMENTS** are **CONSISTENT** with the **RANK**.

BALANCE the **POSITIVE** and the **NEGATIVE**.

Use **DESCRIPTIVE** rather than evaluative statements.

Give the contestant a **GOAL** toward which to strive.

Evaluate your ballot: Will your feedback 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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