

Frequently Asked Questions

FALL 2020 One Act Play Contest - Adjudicators

Our goal is to give students in the One-Act Play Contest, the best possible experience this year. With schools adapting their performances to follow guidelines established by Governor Abbott, TEA, UIL and local authorities, this contest may look very different this fall.

As in previous years, adjudicators should view the productions without prejudice and with the understanding that schools are doing the everything they can to safely provide opportunities for these students. The UIL One-Act Play Contest is here to serve them.

Adjudicators, consider reading the following COVID-19 guidance related to all UIL Activities. **Changes to the public health situation may necessitate changes to this guidance. Adjudicators should check with Contest Managers for updates to the contest regularly.**

[UIL](#) Covid-19 Risk Mitigation Guidelines
Texas Education Agency ([TEA](#))
Executive Order [GA-29](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

Will masks be worn at all times at the host site by audience members, site crew and participants?

As of July 2020, the [Executive Order GA-29](#) regarding face coverings applies to all UIL activities. All employees, parents, visitors and students ten years of age or older must wear face coverings or face shields upon entry to an area where UIL activities are being conducted and **when not actively practicing or playing in the contest.**

Every participant off the stage floor, backstage, booth, contest staff, adjudicators and visitors should wear facial coverings and follow the UIL COVID-19 guidance. Exceptions can be found on the UIL COVID-19 and the Executive Order GA-29 web pages.

What does this mean if I am a judge?

You may see schools performing onstage with facial coverings and others without. Some may have their show blocked to adhere to social distancing guidelines. These choices have been required and/or approved by their administration and allowed by the host site. The adjudicator's function remains to serve as an educator, render a decision and provide an oral critique using the judging criteria, with an understanding of the special concern for limitations often imposed in school theatre facilities and scenic limitations of the One-Act

Play Contest. To treat a school's effort to perform theatre during a pandemic casually would defeat a most important function of adjudication.

What if I see audience member(s) without a facial covering?

If the host site allows spectators, inform your contest manager of this situation.

How am I to evaluate the plays fairly when some performers will wear masks and others will not?

This is a difficult question. I encourage adjudicators to be empathetic with these participants. Some of choices you see onstage come from local administration or even the host site. If students are masked, it may not be the director's choice and the students are having to adjust. At some contests it may not feel equitable, but strive to focus on their strengths and the quality of their performance and not "what could have been". How would you rate the overall effectiveness of the production when it is difficult to understand what they are saying? Perhaps emphasize the physical portrayal of the characters. We have seen instances of a performer, with zero dialogue, win Best Performer. Why? Often it is because they inhabited all the other qualities to create a magnificent performance. As adjudicators, the most important function is to serve as educator. As you would any production, consider providing examples on how to clarify characterizations and relationships and overall storytelling.

Will the Evaluation form change this year because of Covid-19?

At this time, the evaluation form will not be revised. Review the OAP Handbook. "The judging criteria shall not be used as an absolute rubric that will provide a final score for determining advancement." Although the choice to mark "Not Applicable" is not available on the printable Evaluation form, a judge could write in N/A if they find it is necessary. "The oral critique is the primary means of providing direct and educational criticism and engagement with all participants."

Will critiques be in person, videotaped or virtual.

Currently, fall 2020 middle school/junior high OAP contests will follow rules regarding oral critiques found in the UIL Handbook/C&CR, *unless* receiving written permission from the state theatre director. At this time, OAP contests will not be recorded or streamed.

I am scheduled to judge a middle school OAP contest in November. Will I be informed of changes to the contest structure?

Contest Managers should communicate any changes that would affect judges as soon as the information is available. This includes changes in contest site, schedules, directors meeting, critiques and script delivery. An adjudicator should not be surprised with changes that may be required or imposed on contest day. Adjudicators and Contest managers should communicate often, prior to contest day.

Pre-Contest Procedures

- Check with the contest manager on occasion to determine if any changes have been made to the contest. If communication has been sparse, remember that the start of school has occupied many CM's who also juggle numerous professional and personal duties. Contact the state office if you need assistance in contacting your contest official.

In addition to regular considerations related to the contest (TTAO Agreement) You may want to discuss the following:

- How will script delivery be handled?
- Are there any changes to the contest structure at this time?
 - Changes in contest site, school withdrawals, contest schedule, directors meeting, awards, critiques.
- Discuss seating in the audience. Will spectators be allowed in the theatre?
 - Where would you prefer to sit so that you may best adjudicate safely and efficiently?

Contest Day- In addition to regular considerations related to the contest, you may want to review the following

- The REQUIRED COVID-19 SCREENING FOR VISITORS, including adjudicators. See [UIL COVID-19 Guidelines](#), for information.
- Entrance/exit of theatre, location of restroom facilities, workspace, hospitality room.
- Program - Do you prefer a paper or digital copy (screenshots of the program?)
- Review post contest protocols for critiques.

Tips and Suggestions

- Stay flexible and patient. Shows may not necessarily run back to back as in the past. Due to increased safety measures, the contest day may be a little longer.
- Please do not feel that you need to enforce UIL, state or local Covid-19 guidelines. Allow the contest official, site host and administrators to that task.

Remember, what we have “always done” may not apply this year.

We can choose to focus on every limitation or disadvantage this pandemic may bring to our contest or we can focus on the strengths of producing educational theatre. If you have questions, our office is here to help.

Paula Rodriguez, state theatre director

prodiriguez@uiltexas.org

512-471-4517