

Building a Better Ballot



What to
check for:

1

Student performance focused

2

Unintended Redundancy

3

Judges ability to give effective feedback

4

Category/Sub-category weighting

5

Know your clientele

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1. Student Performance Based

- Many ballots accidentally assess director/choreographer choices more than student performance.
- I.e. - Show Design, Difficulty, Costume, Creativity, Props/Set

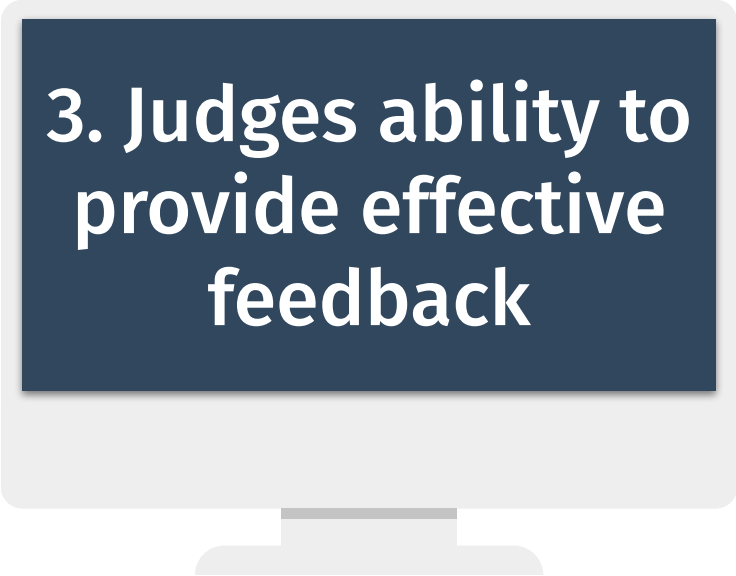
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2. Unintended Redundancy

- Some categories can blur together to judges and directors without clarification. Check for redundant categories and/or clarify the categories for all involved.
- I.e. - Interpretation, phrasing, musicianship, text stress

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3. Judges ability to provide effective feedback

- Combining sub-categories can make it harder for a judge to clarify what part of a performance could use some attention. Same can be said of using too many sub-categories...
- I.e. - Blend/Balance, Execution/Style, Dynamics/Phrasing

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4. Category Weighting

- Make sure that the main categories are weighted appropriately, but also look at the weighting of the sub-categories to prioritize concepts appropriately. It's ok to have some categories worth less than others!
- I.e. - Costumes :)

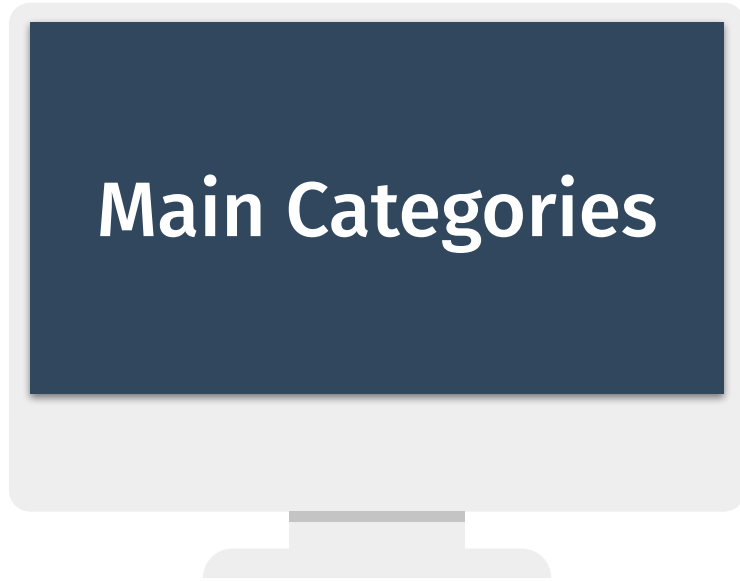
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5. Know your clientele

- Know the programs that are attending your contest and what they are putting on the stage. No need to add extra band categories if most of the groups use tracks or only piano.
- Middle school show choirs are focusing on different concepts than Varsity groups. They can (and should) be assessed differently too.

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Competitions that use Main Categories that are not recognized by Caption Awards are more likely to have that extremely confusing result of a group winning more captions but not winning the competition. Most competitions have opted to combine Choreography and Show categories into a single Visual category.

Excuse me?!?

Judge 1's Scores

Group A

Best Vocals, Choreo, & Band

Vocals - 48/50 points

Choreo - 35/40 points

Show - 22/30 points

Band - 25/30 points

Total - 130/150 points

Group B

Grand Champion

Vocals - 47/50 points

Choreo - 34/40 points

Show - 28/30 points

Band - 23/30 points

Total - 132/150 points