



Communication with Students 1:1

Liz Hansen & Scott Slechta

Welcome!

Good communication is
the bridge between
confusion and clarity.

Not Turner



HELLO!

I am Liz Hansen

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HELLO!

I am Scott Slechta

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***“Communication
is hard.”***

Today's Goals

- **Share** judging tips & strategies
- **Explore** Methods of Communication with students during *oral critique*
- **Explore** methods of communication with students during *written critique*





Communication works
for those who work at it.

John Powell

quotefancy

What Do You Already Know & Do to Communicate with Students?


Take a moment & think of your **best contest day strategy** for communicating with students.

Ask yourself ...

- *What tip or strategy do you know & use effectively?*
- *How do you implement it?*
- *Why is this tip or strategy important?*

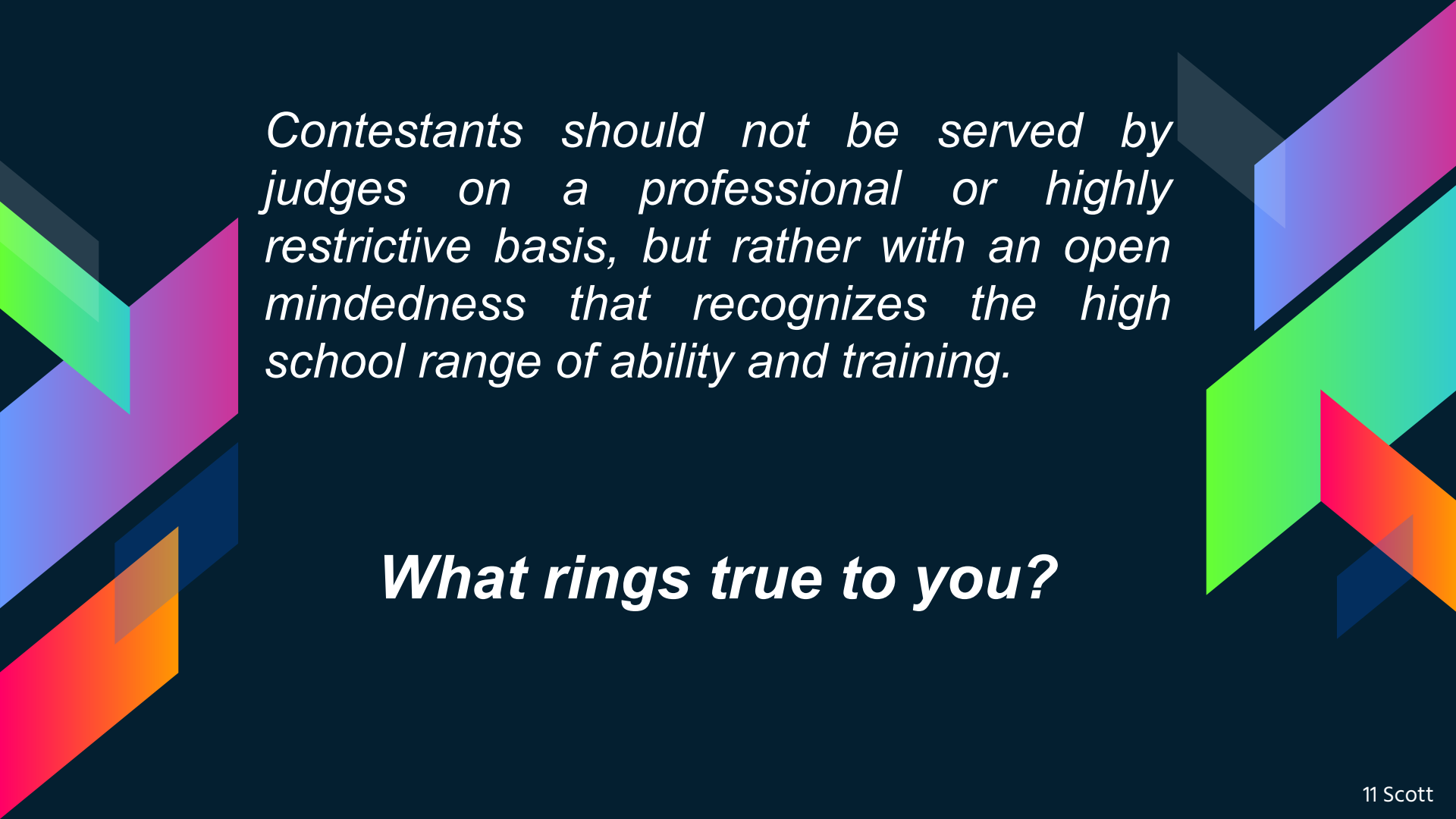
Iowa High School Speech Association's Philosophy

*“... No form of activity
is more important than
that of learning to
speak effectively.”*



The philosophy of the Iowa High School Speech Association always embraces the encouragement of young people toward speech participation and subsequent refined human communication. Since assigned judges are the intended testing guide, students' future activities are determined by the decision of judges.

What rings true to you?



Contestants should not be served by judges on a professional or highly restrictive basis, but rather with an open mindedness that recognizes the high school range of ability and training.

What rings true to you?

The judge is to be:

(1) knowledgeable in a current perspective for the assigned category;

(2) receptive with a constructive and promotional attitude;

(3) prepared to present the student with a tactful justification for any rating given;

(4) willing to recognize that unfamiliar material may qualify as acceptable subject matter; and

(5) informed of current trends in literary writing.

What rings true to you?

Before the Presentation Begins

*As students enter
the room . . .*

- Welcome the performers
- Smile
- Possess Posture Awareness
- Use positive nonverbal communication



Closed Posture
Can indicate hostility,
unfriendliness, and anxiety



Open Posture
May indicate friendliness,
openness, and willingness

Non-Verbal Communication



Maintain eye contact



Practice good posture



Smile, when appropriate



Avoid unnecessary movement



Keep an open stance



Avoid crossing your arms



Nod to show interest

Proactive Tips & Strategies Before the Performance

→ If you are still writing comments from the previous group's performance ...

→ If performer set-up is too far away/close ...

→ If you see students setting up unallowed chairs, set pieces, etc ...



During the Presentation

As students perform . . .

- Be Interested AND Show Interest
- Maintain eye contact
- Use the back of the comment sheet
- Write while you are watching

Not only look interested in the performance but also be interested



- Be interested!
- Maintain Eye Contact

Tips for writing comments while you are watching the performance:

- Scott's Method
- Liz's Method

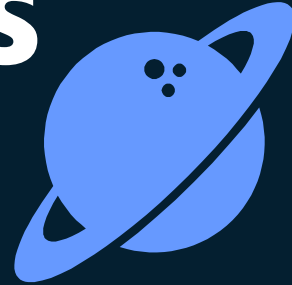


After the performance concludes ...

*Oral & written critique
tips & strategies*

- Ask Questions
- Talk Through Your Notes
- Use the Category Vocabulary

Using Gender Neutral Pronouns



What are Gender Neutral Pronouns?

Pronouns that do not specify a person's gender;
For some people, neutral pronouns better align with their gender identity.

Most common:
They, Them, Their

Least common:
Ze/Zie, Zir, Zirs
Sie, Hir, Hirs
E, Es, Em

Why are Gender Neutral Pronouns used?

Use them if you do not wish to make an assumption about a student's gender or gender identity.

Use them if you are unsure of the student's preferred pronouns and are unable to ask.

Using gender neutral pronouns shows **respect** for the performer.

BTW - Gender Neutral Pronouns have been used by writers throughout the ages, since the 14th century, when gender is de-emphasized, unknown, or irrelevant.

How to use gender neutral pronouns in your critique:

Pronouns have become symbolic of inclusion and exclusion.

Treat “they” as if it’s singular; the most-used gender neutral pronoun is “they”, e.g., ...

“They moved in unison make ocean waves during the choral reading”

Uncomfortable? practice, PRACTICE, PRACTICE

“Hi, my name is
Liz. I go by
she/her/hers.
How would you
like to me to
refer to you?”

Instead of saying...

*“Ladies &
gentlemen” OR*

“Hey guys ”

Say, “Friends,”

“Colleagues,”

“Guests,” or

“Performers ”

Application & Analysis



What would you do?

During your oral critique,
you notice the student is becoming emotional and tears begin to flow:

Do you . . .

- *Finish the critique and ignore the tears.*
- *Finish the critique and apologize if you've hurt the student's feelings.*
- *Stop the critique and acknowledge the emotional moment.*

What would you do?

You notice when you begin your oral critique the student does not know where to stand.

Do you . . .

- Let them stand where they want to
- Have a chair available for them to sit beside you
- In case of large groups (CR, RT, EA) tell them to move toward the table in front of you

What would you do?

If a performer(s) have a 504/IEP background and/or a learning accommodation, Coaches may attach a note to the comment sheet to inform the judge.

Do you . . .

- Ignore the note attached to the comment sheet
- Glance at the note during the presentation to read later
- Invite/request an associate or teacher present in the room to join the student's oral critique
- Use your own professional understanding to offer your comments

And finally . . .

- Include a positive comment: *Good Job!*, smiley emoji, or *Thanks for Performing!*
- Check for printed first/last name at the bottom of comment sheet
- Check that the rating on the comment sheet matches the rating on the judge's ballot
- Check that your comments justify the rating you give



3 New Things You Learned

What new learning have
you added to your
understanding
of the 5 criteria
in the Judge's Philosophy?

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THANKS!

Any questions?

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Credits:

Gomez, Jasmine & Hunter Levitan. *"Here's What You Should Really Know About Gender Neutral Pronouns."* [www.women's healthmagazine.com](http://www.women'shealthmagazine.com) June 13, 2022

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The greatest
communication skill is
paying value to others.

Denis Waitley

 quotefancy