

**ARTICLE XXII
One-Act Plays**

Section 1. Entries.

Clause 1. Each school will be entitled to enter one One-Act Play in the District Contest.

Clause 2. The one act play will consist of one or more students.

Section 2. Selections/Materials. Plays may be of any type suitable for high school talent. The participating school will be responsible for royalty arrangements. A member school will not use material in this area which is identical to that used in any other large group event.

ROYALTIES. It is the duty and responsibility of the director to secure appropriate production rights for all dramas which are presented in contest production, and is required whether or not admission is assessed. The mere performance permission for a home high school production (as in the case of a three-act play) is not license for using copyrighted dramatic material either in portion or totally in contest presentation.

Section 3. Length. The length of a One-Act Play will be limited to thirty-five (35) minutes.

Section 4. Preparation and Presentation.

Clause 1. In the District Contest and State Contest, the order of appearance will be determined by the District Manager and the State Manager. However, each manager will follow as far as possible the desires of the coaches of the competing schools.

Clause 2. Unless a school is prepared to carry its own properties when performing away from home, plays should be selected that require very few and simple stage properties.

Clause 3. The Local Manager, at least one week prior to a performance, will contact the participating schools listing such stage properties they will have available. The local contest manager will not be responsible for providing any other stage properties. The host school will provide minimal / basic lighting on the stage area. The contest manager will make available a list of technical elements that will be in each One Act Center.

Clause 4. The Local Manager will assign to each cast such rooms as may be needed for costuming, but each cast will furnish its own costumes and accessories, make-up, and personal properties.

Clause 5. Each director should be ready to go on with their play within ten minutes after the close of the preceding play, much sooner if possible. Visiting stage managers and the local stage manager will cooperate to expedite changes of scenery, properties, etc., for casts coming on or leaving the stage. If it is desired, a member of the cast may not use over two minutes to explain the setting to the audience before the play begins.

Clause 6. Directors must not expect to be permitted time for a complete rehearsal prior to the performance. A technical rehearsal of not over five minutes may be arranged by the local manager for each play that the visiting director may check on lighting effects, voice projection, property locations, etc.

Section 5. Timing. The Local Manager will appoint a timekeeper who will use a timing device. At the end of thirty-five minutes, a whistle signal will be used to call the performance to an end. Contestants must stop immediately upon penalty of disqualification.

Section 6. Judging.

Clause 1. Plays will be judged by individuals familiar with stage performances.

Clause 2. Each judge will be furnished with a ballot which will list the plays by title. The ballot will carry instruction for the judge rating the play, consistent with the level of competition, as provided in Article VII, Section 1, By-Laws.

Clause 3. Off-stage prompting will constitute a IV rating.

Section 7. Winners.

Clause 1. The same play selection must be used in the State Contest.

Clause 2. One student assistant may be included as a part of the cast and be recognized as such for award purposes.

Clause 3. Any school winning a Division I rating in the State Contest the preceding year with a One-Act Play may not use the same play the next year.

CASEBOOK

Questions - Answers

1. Q. May students earning a Division I rating in Readers Theatre, Debate, and One-Act Plays the previous year participate in the same field the following year?
 - A. Yes. The same play, however, may not be used the following year.
2. Q. May a participant be included in a One-Act Play, playing a musical instrument if not on the stage, and still participate in two other areas of contest activity?
 - A. Anytime a participant is in view of the audience it counts as participation in this area of contest activity, causing activity in only one other contest activity. Entrance on stage in view of audience constitutes participation.
3. Q. If a coach opts to list the student assistant on the eligibility form, will this count as one of the two allowed participation areas?
 - A. Yes.
4. Q. Are cuttings from theatrical music productions acceptable as entries in One-Act Play competition?
 - A. Cuttings from musical theatre productions may invite criticism and lower ratings from judges when such cuttings are predominantly singing and dancing. The coach must be reminded that judges are usually provided for One-Act Play competition with strong drama backgrounds and may not be qualified to judge musical theatre adequately. Performance rights might be difficult to obtain and royalty obligation might be financially prohibitive.

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- 5. Q. May a script be used as a prop in a play performance?
A. Yes, if it is the intent of the author to use it as a prop, the pages must be blank. This is a memorized category.
- 6. Q. Will the time for a setting explanation be included in the thirty-five minute time limit?
A. Yes.
- 7. Q. May mime be used exclusively as a One-Act Play?
A. No.
- 8. Q. May mime be used in a One-Act Play?
A. Yes.
- 9. Q. May a device that creates smoke or fog effects be used during the presentation?
A. No. These devices may cause health concerns (i.e. asthma, allergies) and/or delay set-up time for the next performer.
- 10 Q. May one student, using a script, perform in place of one ill, injured, or ineligible cast member with the understanding that the group's performance will receive "comments only" and no rating?
A. Yes, if the coach obtains approval from the State Office prior to the performance.
- 11. Q. Are participation plays permissible?
A. Yes.

Contestant is not an entry until the membership entry form is received by the Contest Manager postmarked by the Wednesday two and one half weeks prior to the contest date for both Individual and Group contests. Print off two copies: one to be sent to the Contest Manager and one to use as your Invoice. Please submit your invoice immediately for payment to IHSSA State Office.
