

Prepared for IHSSA by Dr. Dennis Doyle, Pella, Iowa

August 2021

Judging Comments for IE Events

***Remember:** Comments should justify your rating; judge the performance not the performer; make your comments constructive, encouraging, and specific.

Example Comments:

Literary Program

Well-constructed introduction that invites us into the program. Especially good use of eye contact here to connect to your audience right away.

It is a challenge to manage the shifts between each selection, so make sure you don't rush the transition between the prose selection into your first poem.

Prose Fiction

"I told you not to wait for me." Nice job matching vocal, facial, and physical characterization here!

It is difficult to shift between when the narrator is telling the story and when the characters are showing the dramatic moments of the story through dialogue; keep working on using vocal tone/emphasis and focus to communicate these shifts. The scene when Harry and Professor Snape are in direct dialogue in the classroom is an example where you can be clearer on the shift from narrative telling to character showing.

Poetry

Poems with dominant rhyme schemes are difficult to perform well. You effectively incorporate dramatic pausing and vocal emphasis to explore the other sound imagery in the poem. Good!

"And miles to go before I sleep." Good pacing and vocal emphasis!

How can the mood/tone of each poem be more distinct? Right now both poems seem on the same level in terms of emotional tone. Maybe the Frost poem could be more somber and reflective?

Original Oratory

You are comfortable and confident in the speaking situation; good! Effective use of direct eye contact with the audience, especially during your final appeal for action toward the conclusion of the speech.

The oratory is most effective and persuasive when you emphasize the problem-solution structure of your argument. Keep looking for ways to communicate to your audience how you see the connection between human activity and current aspects of climate change. I think that is the key point you are trying to make.

I appreciate your passion and commitment to your argument, just be careful that you don't come across as judgmental of others. When you give examples of how you are diminishing your own carbon "footprint", it can sound like you are accusing us of not doing enough. Focus on encouraging and inspiring us to action!