

Pennsylvania High School Speech League

# **DRAMA HANDBOOK**



*Revised: July 2003*

## **Article B17 – Drama**

### **Section B17.1**

Each school may have one entry in the Regional Drama Festivals. In the case of a single gender school, arrangements may be made with the Chairperson of the event.

### **Section B17.2**

Each region shall qualify two plays to the State Drama Festival. If eight schools participate in any Regional Drama Festival, three plays will advance from that Regional Festival to the State Drama Festival. No more than eight in a region.

### **Section B17.3**

Material used may be a one-act play, a cutting from a longer play, or an original play. Musicals may not be used. The play must have a minimum of three characters. Characters may not be added or cut from published plays that would be in violation of copyright regulations except with written permission by the publisher and/or author. The play which wins first place in the State Tournament may not be used the following year. Each school is responsible for any royalty obligations.

### **Section B17.4**

The playing time shall be not less than 20 minutes nor more than 40 minutes. Each play shall also have up to 10 minutes for setting the stage and up to 5 minutes for striking the stage.

### **Section B17.5**

A total of 40 minutes will be available to each play for technical rehearsal, including setting the stage, and striking the stage. The time may be used at the discretion of each school but may not exceed 40 minutes total.

### **Section B17.6**

The host school shall supply a basic lighting plot with a minimum of three general lighting areas and one follow spot. It is suggested that participating schools supply a light, sound, and curtain cue sheet. The host school shall supply a simple set adaptable to the needs of the plays. No school should attempt to transport to the festival complete stage settings. All hand properties, make-up, and costumes shall be provided by the school presenting the play.

### **Section B17.7**

Any play that is more than one minute under the minimum or one minute over the maximum in extra playing or technical time is not eligible to receive first place on any individual judge's ballot. This will not affect the selection to the All-State Cast.

### Section B17.8

- a. The regional and state judging shall be the ranking system as used in all Pennsylvania High School Speech League events.
- b. In addition to the ranking of the plays at the State Drama Festival, the judges will name an All-State Cast of not less than three or more than ten members.
- c. The judges are to be selected by the Regional Coordinators for regional competition, and by the Executive Director for State competition. A panel of three judges must be used at the Regional competition. Regional judges will be paid \$10.00 per play. A panel of five judges must be used at the State competition.

### Section B17.9

The Director of the contest play will not be allowed backstage during setup, performance, and strike. The Director is permitted in the dressing rooms.

### Section B17.10

Awards at the State Festival: the top three schools receive plaques (first, second, and third); the remaining schools receive "State Finalist" plaques. Each student selected as a member of the All-State Cast receives a plaque (no less than three or more than ten to be selected).

### Section B17.11

Regional Registration will now be sent to the State Office and after all registrations are received, individual schools will be assigned to a regional competition. Geographic location and equalization of regional competition will be the prime factors in assigning schools. There will be three regions. No more than eight schools can be assigned to a region. If needed, additional region(s) will be created. If more than 24 schools enter the Regional Festival, a fourth Regional Festival will be created. The registration fee for the regional drama festival shall not exceed \$50.00.

### Section B17.12

The Drama Handbook shall be considered a part of the Constitution.

## **FESTIVAL AND CONTEST SUGGESTIONS**

The Regional Drama Coordinator will schedule its Drama Festival whenever it is convenient for that particular Region, and at any time prior to the deadline set by the League Office. Each member school is permitted to enter a play in a Regional Festival. Each Region shall qualify two plays to the State Festival. Where possible, area colleges might be willing to help with the Regional Festival in providing facilities and judges. A member of the Executive Board will be appointed as liaison to each of the Regional Drama Festivals.

The following suggestions are given for the Regional Coordinator and host schools in planning for the Regional, and State Festival.

1. The Regional Drama Coordinator must be active in secondary school drama and/or knowledgeable in drama.
2. All deadline dates for the Regional and State Festivals will be enforced.
3. The schedule for the performances of the plays can be by an impartial drawing for position; or the plays may be scheduled to facilitate staging and timing by the Regional Coordinator (Regional) and the Executive Director (State).
4. The host school or Coordinator will provide a competent stage crew. The participating school may provide its own trained stage crew, if acceptable with host and the school's regulations.
5. The host school shall provide competent light and sound technicians who will receive cues from the competing high school student stage managers.
6. The host shall provide a timekeeper and such house personnel as necessary to insure a smooth running performance.
7. The Coordinator will be responsible for sending all necessary information and reports to the Executive Director immediately at the close of the event.

It is the responsibility of the Coordinator in charge to secure competent judges. JQP's must be completed for the Drama judges for all levels of competition. The judging will be by a panel of judges. Regional judges will be paid \$10.00 per play. The following committees can function to arrange for the planning and presentations of Drama events:

Regional Festival: Director of the host school, Regional Coordinator as appointed by the Executive Director, and Chairperson of the participating districts

State Festival: Executive Director, Executive Committee, and the Regional Directors

Each entering school sends to State Office:  
Larry D. Augustine, Executive Director  
PA High School Speech League  
Susquehanna University  
514 University Avenue  
Selinsgrove, PA 17870-1001

## PENNSYLVANIA HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH LEAGUE

### Regional Drama Registration Form

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_  
School \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Play Title \*: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Play  
Setting: \_\_\_\_\_

Cast Names (character & real name):

Crew Names:

Total Number of Participants: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Proof of Royalty is required the day of the performance.**

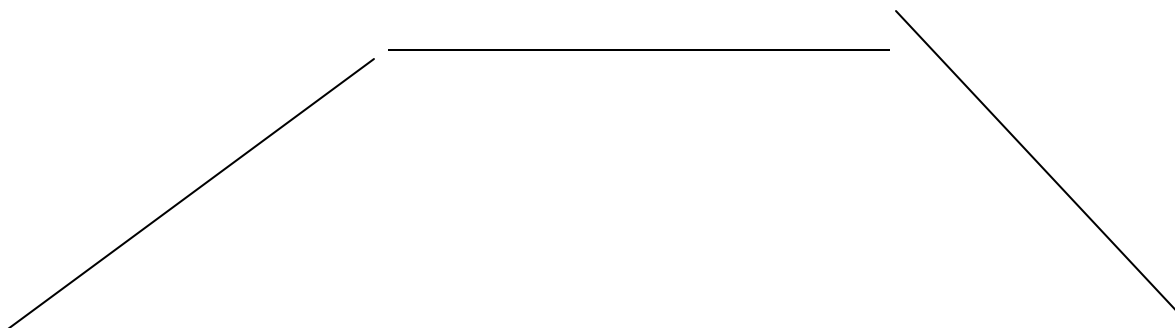
Director's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

(OVER)

## TECHNICAL INFORMATION

SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

The stage provided will be a curtain set. On the stage diagram below, we have indicated the entrances and position of furniture for our play:



**IT IS SUGGESTED THAT PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS SUPPLY A LIGHT, SOUND, AND CURTAIN CUE SHEET.**

LIGHTING: A THREE AREA LIGHTING DESIGN WILL BE PROVIDED ALONG WITH A FOLLOW SPOT.

SOUND: A BASIC SOUND SYSTEM FOR EFFECTS WILL BE PROVIDED.

Note: The judges are instructed to disregard settings, as the director is discouraged from bringing large set pieces for an individual play. The lights will be pre-set to cover each acting area, and the director is urged to simplify lighting.

Approximate length of performance \_\_\_\_\_ minutes.

This play was presented before an audience of the high school community on:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Mail to:**  
Larry D. Augustine, Executive Director  
PA High School Speech League  
Susquehanna University  
514 University Avenue  
Selinsgrove, PA 17870-1001

## PENNSYLVANIA HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH LEAGUE

### REGIONAL DRAMA REPORT SHEET

Regional Drama Coordinator \_\_\_\_\_ Region \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Judge(s) (1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_\_

Fee Paid \_\_\_\_\_

Participating School	District	Play: Title & Author	Rank
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			

Plays Selected For State Contest:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Regional Drama Coordinator

(Regional Coordinator sends to qualifying schools and to the State Office)

**PENNSYLVANIA HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH LEAGUE**

State Drama Festival Qualification Report

To: State Drama Qualifying Schools and  
PHSSL State Office

The following schools have qualified for the State Drama Festival from the \_\_\_\_\_Region.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Regional Drama

Coordinator)

#1 SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

DRAMA COACH \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL TEL: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ HOME TEL: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

#2 SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

DRAMA COACH \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL TEL: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ HOME TEL: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE TO REGIONAL SCHOOLS

The State Drama Festival will be held at Susquehanna University the second weekend in December. Mail the State Drama Festival Registration to the State Office.

(Each State qualifying school mails to State office)

FOR STATE OFFICE USE ONLY
Amount Paid _____
Royalty Receipt _____
Certificate of Insurance _____

**PENNSYLVANIA HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH LEAGUE  
STATE DRAMA FESTIVAL REGISTRATION FORM**

**NAME OF SCHOOL** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**DISTRICT #** \_\_\_\_\_ **REGION** \_\_\_\_\_

**DRAMA DIRECTOR(S)** \_\_\_\_\_

**SCHOOL PHONE** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ **DIRECTOR'S HOME PHONE** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

The entry fee for the play will be \$50.00. Please forward this amount and your royalty receipt to:

Larry D. Augustine, Executive Director  
Pennsylvania High School Speech League  
Susquehanna University  
514 University Avenue  
Selinsgrove, PA 17870-1001

Also, complete the information requested on the other side of this form. Please make sure your Certificate of Insurance is on file in the State Office.

I certify that the above-mentioned play is eligible to participate according to the PHSSL Constitution, Article C3, Section C3.2. I understand that if the school does not participate in the State Festival, the fees must still be paid.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Drama Director's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Principal's Signature

**PLAY TITLE** \_\_\_\_\_

**AUTHOR** \_\_\_\_\_

**PLAY SETTING** \_\_\_\_\_

**CAST NAMES:**

<b>Character</b>	<b>Real Name</b>
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.
6.	6.
7.	7.
8.	8.
9.	9.
10.	10.
11.	11.

**CREW NAMES**

1.	6.
2.	7.
3.	8.
4.	9.
5.	10.

**TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS** \_\_\_\_\_

**APPROXIMATE LENGTH OF PERFORMANCE** \_\_\_\_\_ **MINUTES.**

**DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_

## TECHNICAL INFORMATION

SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

DIRECTOR \_\_\_\_\_

The stage provided will be a curtain set. On the stage diagram below, we have indicated the entrances and position of furniture for our play:



**IT IS SUGGESTED THAT PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS SUPPLY A LIGHT, SOUND, AND CURTAIN CUE SHEET.**

**LIGHTING:** A THREE AREA LIGHTING DESIGN WILL BE PROVIDED ALONG WITH A FOLLOW SPOT.

**SOUND:** A BASIC SOUND SYSTEM FOR EFFECTS WILL BE PROVIDED.

**Note:** The judges are instructed to disregard settings, and the director is discouraged from bringing large set pieces for an individual play. However, any set piece or prop you plan to use on stage must be brought with you. The lights will be preset to cover each acting area, and the director is urged to simplify lighting.

# PENNSYLVANIA HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH LEAGUE

## Drama Evaluation Form

NAME OR NUMBER OF SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

PLAY \_\_\_\_\_ AUTHOR \_\_\_\_\_

The acting, directing and technical aspects of the production should all be considered as a whole in the critic's evaluation. Since schools are required to keep the amount of scenery to a minimum, the critic is to evaluate the technical aspects of the play in terms of the performer's adaptation to and use of stage, lighting, and furniture available. Choice of play should not be a criterion in your ranking; rather, the critic should evaluate how well the play chosen was presented. Critics are necessarily allowed some leeway in appraising the performances. We wish the following factors considered as basic, however:

1. **CHARACTERIZATION AND INTERPRETATION** - Was there a complete bodily and mental re-creation of the characters by the actors? Were their reactions to other actors correct and effective? Were the interpretations of the roles believable? Was there sufficient motivation, action, and reaction?
2. **VOICE AND DICTION** - Could you hear the actors distinctly? Was there variety of rate and inflection? Was pronunciation and articulation properly done and in keeping with the play?
3. **PLOT DEVELOPMENT** - Was the production unified? If a cutting, was it a complete and understandable unit? Did the ensemble carry the situation to a suitable climax? Did the characterizations and action advance the plot?
4. **DIRECTION** - Were the roles appropriately cast? Was the theme or main idea of the play brought out? Was there evidence of effectiveness of the director's influence over mechanics of stage business, balance, proportion, emphasis, placing, grouping, and movement of the players on stage and in creation of mood? Were the time limits observed?
5. **TEMPO** - Was the pace in keeping with the general idea of the play? Was there smoothness, variety, and appropriateness in the movement of the play?
6. **MAKE-UP AND COSTUMES** - Although no extra credit should be allowed for unusual or elaborate costuming or make-up, were these reasonably convincing and appropriate for the creation of the illusion?
7. **TOTAL EFFECTIVENESS** - What was the total impression of the production upon you, the critic?

**CRITIQUE** (Please continue your comments on the back.)

**JUDGE'S SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_

**PLAY'S OVERALL RATING** \_\_\_\_\_ (Superior, Excellent, Good, Fair, or Poor)  
More than one play may be given the same rating.

AND/OR

**PLAY'S RANK** \_\_\_\_\_ (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.) More than one play may NOT be given the same rank.

**PENNSYLVANIA HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH LEAGUE  
REGIONAL DRAMA FESTIVAL**

SUMMARY OF JUDGING RESULTS

PLAY TITLE SCHOOL DISTRICT	JUDGE	JUDGE	JUDGE	TOTAL	RANK

**PENNSYLVANIA HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH LEAGUE  
STATE DRAMA FESTIVAL**

SUMMARY OF JUDGING RESULTS

PLAY TITLE SCHOOL DISTRICT	JUDGE	JUDGE	JUDGE	JUDGE	JUDGE	TOTAL	RANK