

Everything You Wanted to Know about Adjudication*

***but were afraid to ask**

Before Seeing a Show

- Once you're assigned to see a show by your advisor, think about who might go with you. Daytony judges are given 2 free tickets to shows. Talk to your advisor about who might be your guest. It might be helpful to take someone who can help you look for actors and that you can bounce ideas off of when completing the ballot.
- Want to make it a theatre outing? Have your advisor contact the school's director. Depending on the school, discount tickets can be purchased. Availability will differ from school to school and don't always expect that you can sit together. If you go as a group, please keep each other in check.
- Ask your advisor for directions to the school in advance. All schools have directions from the school's director. Research where you're going before hopping in the car to take off. You don't want to be late. You should plan to arrive at least 15 minutes before the show.
- When dressing for the occasion remember that you are not only representing yourself, but also your school. Please be a positive representative of both.
- Report to the ticket booth and introduce yourself by name and school and let the attendant know that you're there to judge for the Daytonys. They should have your tickets and ballot ready for you.



While at the Show

- This is the place in the handout in which ordinary theatre-goers would be told to silence cell phones and to keep them off for the entirety of the show, to unwrap any candy, and to finish all beverages before entering the auditorium, but since you're theatre folks it probably bothers you when any audience member does any of those things, so please, out of respect to those around you, don't be an annoyance.
- Before the show starts you should take the time to look over the ballot to see who and what you are judging. Make note of the actors you're to look for, the stage aspects you will need to comment on, and if able, discuss this with your guest. Have them help you if needed. Ballots should then be put away until maybe intermission, when you do a quick check to see how you're doing.
- Enjoy the first act, make mental notes and don't commit yourself to any final judgment until the conclusion of the play. You can jot some notes down when the house lights come up, speak some notes into your phone, and look at your ballot again during intermission, but you should absolutely not give any scores until after the show.

- Enjoy what the school has to offer for intermission. Look around, talk to others, buy a snack, but do not discuss any aspect of the show while in the lobby. Remember, you might be standing next to the lead's aunt and uncle. They think their niece is the best actress ever. If you must discuss the show, do it quietly away from others.
- Be seated in time for the start of the show after intermission.
- After the show you may want to grab a pen to fill out your ballot, but wait! Ballots should not be filled out while still at the show, and again, any conversations about your scores, ideas, or critiques should not be made aloud where others at the school can hear you.

After the Show



- Many schools offer to take Daytony judges backstage so they can see the set, costume room, shop, and other areas. This may vary from school to school. Do not be offended if anyone is not able to accommodate your request and do not judge them on this aspect. It is only an added opportunity and not part of the ballot. There should be info with your ballot about how to take advantage of a backstage tour.
- Feel free to talk to actors and congratulate them on their efforts if you'd like.
- When talking to any of the cast or production staff you should never offer advice or critique what was done. Compliment them on things that you feel deserve it, be genuine, and feel free to share what is done at your school, but never do it in a manner that makes them think that they made bad choices or that may lead them to believe you're trying to out-do them.
- Be gracious and thank the school representatives for the hospitality. You did get to see a show for free, which is usually an expense of \$10-\$15.
- Find time to fill out the ballot as soon as you can. Don't wait until one day the following week. Maybe stop for ice cream or a coffee, but again think about where you are and what you say.
- Use the rubric to make your score assignments remember what a 10 represents, a 9, an 8, etc. Be fair when giving one actor a 7 and another a 5. Do the scores balance out? Consult the rubric in your packet.
- Are you being too critical? Remember high school productions are as good any shows that are out there, but are you considering all aspects of the show fairly and are you judging based on what you saw onstage or what you personally think is good?
- There is space for comments, please offer constructive advice or accolades where necessary, again don't be arrogant in what you write, but try to write something. Nothing is worse than seeing a bunch of numbers without any explanation.
- Be neat with the ballot. Use pen and write as neatly as you can. Schools want to see your scores and read your feedback. Your feedback and ideas matter a lot to them.
- Turn your ballot in to your school's director the Monday following the show. Don't let it linger in the backpack with your Algebra homework. Have a conversation with your director, tell them how the show was and tell them a bit about your assessment of the show. It's a great opportunity to geek out about theatre with someone who appreciates it.