

Critique

The critique is an opportunity for Instructor and Judge to exchange insights relative to the performance of the Unit. It is most often for the benefit of the instructor, although the exchange of information can be beneficial to the judge as well. The critique belongs to the instructor who should take the lead, ask the questions, and guide the dialog.

Participation at critique is an option. If you are comfortable with the judge's evaluation and score, then you have nothing to discuss, and should feel no obligation to participate. The judge will not take offense at your absence.

The Purpose Behind the Critique

- To clarify judges' comments which are confusing or unclear.
- To discuss places in the show that were unclear or to which the judge did not respond favorably.
- To offer insights to the judge relative to your intent - Where you're heading in the program/vocabulary development, when you plan to implement changes, when you are scheduled to address concerns expressed to the judge.
- To discuss your score relative to the criteria of each score sheet and relative to your competitors.
- To ascertain insights as to where you might stand "nationally" (if this is pertinent)

How to Prepare for the Critique

- You are best prepared if you watch your group's performance from the perspective of the judge (not from the sound table)
- Study and know the scoring system and understand the philosophy behind each sheet
- Listen to the tapes of the individuals to whom you will speak at the critique
- Use the critique form to aid in organizing your concerns and to expedite your dialog

Making the Most of Your Five (5) Minutes

- Be sensitive to the fact that effective communication will breakdown if either party is in an emotional state. Remember that body language and tone of voice will communicate a great deal.
- Go directly to the judge; introduce yourself and your Unit's name. Show the judge the score sheet if they have made any written comments on it. (to refresh the memory and expedite dialog)
- As you are aware, critiques are short and it is important for you to get to your point quickly so that the judge can explain why he or she evaluated the program as they did.

Critique Etiquette

- Never criticize or berate another group or their performance
- Never use profanity in your dialog
- Please don't attach the judge's integrity or intelligence. It will get you nowhere and could create barriers that will be counter productive to both of you.
- Don't ask the judge to tell you how to write your show

- Don't ask the judge to comment on ideas that aren't yet in the show, and don't ask for a scoring commitment for something that isn't yet in the show

Using the Critique Sheet

- At each contest, units are asked to prepare a critique sheet prior to entering critique. Please take the time to use this tool. It is a direct link to the facilitator's review of the working panel at a contest. All critique forms completed by instructors are distributed to the applicable caption facilitator. These forms are the facilitator's means to monitor a judge's performance FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE. All staff members should be aware of the intent and purpose behind this form. This is your opportunity to indicate to the caption facilitator your evaluation of the judge's performance. Your comments should be BOTH positive and constructive. If you feel that a judge has done a great job in adjudicating your program, please be sure to indicate this on the critique form. If you have an issue, identify the issue in a constructive manner.

Instructors Recourse for Competitive or Judging Issues

- The UWGA Contest Coordinator has the responsibility to know and understand the entire system. This person works on behalf of ALL Units to provide the best, most consistent adjudication possible. This person represents you and is there to listen to your concerns.
- If an adjudication issue or concern should occur with a particular judge, discuss the issue with the UWGA Contest Coordinator on that day.
- If the situation occurs as a result of a contest, please be prepared to discuss your issues at critique with the judge. Preparation must include listening to your tape and completing the critique preparation form. These tools were developed to aid you in the critique process.
- If, after critique, you still have issues with a judge, please go back and speak to the UWGA Contest Coordinator.
- If, after following all of the above process, you still feel the need to go forward with a formal protest, a written statement must be sent to the UWGA Contest Coordinator within 48 hours of the contest, providing reasons why you feel this protest exists. Included with this written statement must be the judge's cassette tape and your completed critique sheet.
- At the close of a contest a critique for judges and instructors will be held. Instructors will be required to fill out a Critique Sheet prior to admittance to critique.
- The critique sessions shall be open to instructional personnel only. A maximum of four (4) people representing a unit will be allowed. Students are not permitted in critique regardless of their role with the competing unit.
- Judges tapes can be picked up by the director at the Announcers table post performance.
- Each unit is allowed no more than five (5) minutes with each individual judge and/or caption.
- The Timing and Penalty judge will, if requested to do so, clarify any penalty.