

# INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

## INTRODUCTION

“Individual Events” are performance and technical events that students from each troupe may enter into competition at their District Festival. Each troupe may create its own criteria for deciding which students will represent their school in Individual Events. Each District has its own formula for deciding how many Individual Events a troupe may bring to its local District Festival, and in how many Individual Events a student from that troupe may participate. This formula is based on the size of both the District and the limitations of the venue in which it hosts these events.

Qualifying Individual Events from each District are invited to perform at the annual FSJT State Festival. Florida State Junior Thespians currently allows each troupe to register up to eight superior-ranked Performance Events and up to four superior-ranked Technical Events. (In the event a troupe does not have enough superior-ranked events to fill this slate, exceptions can be made for up to four excellent-rated events to attend the FSJT State Festival.)

Performance event categories are: Monologue, Duet Acting, Ensemble Acting, Solo Musical, Duet Musical, Small Group Musical, Large Group Musical, Pantomime, and Improvisation.

Technical event categories are: Set Design, Costume Design, Publicity Design, Scene Writing, and Makeup Design.

## GENERAL RULES

1. **ADULT LANGUAGE:** Students are not to use adult language in any performance at the District or State Level. The piece may be disqualified, and a letter may be sent to the school principal if this occurs. Please remember that this is an educational theater event aimed at students who are mostly 11-13 years old.
2. **SLATE:** A verbal “slate,” or introduction, is required for each performance piece and MUST include ONLY the entrant's name(s), title of selection, and troupe number. Do not give the name of school or other information. The official time for the event will start after the mention of the troupe number. (Example slate: "My name is John Doe. I will sing 'Music of the Night' from *Phantom of the Opera*. I represent Troupe #12345.") The slate is not to be performed in character.
3. **NO DOUBLE DIPPING:** No student may enter the same Individual Event category twice in the same festival.
4. **DRESS CODE:** While performing an Individual Event, students are not allowed to wear clothing that displays their school's name or school initials. Displaying their Thespian district or troupe number is allowed.
5. **CAST OR SCRIPT CHANGES:** No changes or additions to Individual Event titles or cast after the festival registration deadline. There may be financial penalties at both the District and State Festival for changed or dropped events. All Individual Events

presented at State Festival must be the same title and cutting, with the same participants, that received an Excellent/Superior at District Festival. Any exceptions to this rule require a written request to Junior Thespian State Chair before festival registration.

6. **APPROPRIATE MATERIAL:** The troupe director is responsible for insuring that the material is appropriate for presentation in a public forum at their own middle school. The principal will be asked to certify that the material chosen meets the community standards of the school and community. Material deemed inappropriate by festival judges may be recommended for disqualification at the District and/or State Festivals. The District/State Chair will determine if the piece is disqualified. Their decision is final.
7. **COSTUME CLARIFICATION:** No costumes may be used. Costumes are defined as clothing which is unique to the character(s) in the specific play, scene, and/or musical number (EXAMPLE: 1950's style clothing for a scene from *Grease.*); or clothing that helps to establish information about the character(s) (i.e. mood, personality, period, etc.) in the specific play, scene and/or musical number (EXAMPLE: mismatched "nerd" clothing for *The Nerd.*) Dance clothing (leotards, tights, dance skirts, sweats, etc.) may be worn UNLESS they would be covered under the description listed above.
8. **PROP CLARIFICATION:** Props and accessories may be used if they are an integral part of the blocking and/or choreography. "Integral" is defined as a hand prop that is physically used by the actor to help tell the story. Set pieces may not be used with the exception of the furniture identified in the rules for each category.
9. **STAGE WEAPONS:** No stage weapons of any kind are allowed in Individual Events. Anything being used as a weapon must be mimed. (Please note that separate rules regarding stage weapons are in place for One Act and Mainstage Plays at our festivals.)

## **BEST PRACTICE IDEAS FOR INDIVIDUAL EVENTS:**

- Print out the rules for each Individual Event category, and have participants and their parent/guardian sign a copy of the rules. This will help them focus on what the rules actually say, and may also be a useful tool if someone claims not to have known a given rule and blames their troupe director for it.
- Use the Individual Events as classroom assignments (or after school club activities), with the reward for exceptional work being a spot on your performance roster at the festivals.
- Use the Individual Event adjudication forms as rubrics in your classroom. This will help students get more comfortable with the festival scoring, and provides an easy way to document student growth over time.
- Organize a "mock festival" at your school before you attend the real District and State Festivals. Have students dress professionally, perform their pieces, share peer evaluation, bring in outside judges, and even give some fun awards. You could even do it in the evening as a fundraiser for your trip!

If you have more “best practice” ideas to share, send them to [JamesFSJT@gmail.com](mailto:JamesFSJT@gmail.com)!

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# COSTUME DESIGN

## CHOICE OF PLAYS

The student may choose any play from the list announced by the State Board of Directors each September on the Florida State Junior Thespian web page.

## RULES

1. The student must present three character renderings. These may represent three different characters or may follow a single character through several appropriate changes.
2. Computer aided design is not acceptable.
3. Each design must be executed in full color and displayed on a 10" x 15" white display board. The display board cannot be mounted on any other surface. All figures must be 10" tall. The base of the figure should be 3" from the lower edge of the board. A human figure may be traced to use as a template upon which a costume creation may then be placed. Tracing of a costume outline or silhouette is unacceptable.
4. The board should be labeled in the following manner:
  - a. Upper Left corner: Name of the show and author.
  - b. Upper Right corner: Name of the character, act, and scene.
  - c. Lower Right corner: Student's name and troupe number.
5. The student must attach fabric swatches, measuring a minimum of 2x2", by the top edge of the swatch only to the same board on which the figure is drawn. Mount the swatch so that it may be lifted and felt in order to evaluate appropriate fabric texture, draping ability, weight, grain, etc.
6. The student must present a verbal justification of the designs. Note cards may be used.
7. Only one student may be involved in creating the designs. NO COLLABORATION.
8. All artwork used must be the original work of the entrant.
9. The event will not exceed ten minutes. The student presentation is not to exceed five of these ten minutes.

## MATERIALS

Each room will be provided with one 4x4' card type table, which will not support weight over 25 pounds. This will be the only permissible furniture.

## COSTUME DISCUSSION SUGGESTIONS

In their five-minute presentation, the student should be able to discuss the following:

1. Set the play: Discuss time period, place, and mood.
2. Establish the character: Discuss character traits, age, gender, class, occupation, and/or a character's purpose in the play.
3. Justify the designs: Be prepared to defend ideas with proper, established research. Talk about sources of information.
4. Define social influences: Point out styles that were popular during the time period. Discuss any laws or limitations that might influence fashion choices or the use of accessories. Discuss the social role the character plays.
5. Discuss fabric and color choices: Discuss fabrics and colors that were popular and/or available during the appropriate time period. Discuss fabrics and colors that are appropriate for the character. Discuss fabrics and colors and how they translate onto the stage.

#### **SPECIAL NOTE**

We are looking for great samples of Superior-ranked student projects in this category that we can use on our website as examples. If you have a great project you're willing to share, send it as a PDF to [KristenFSJT@gmail.com](mailto:KristenFSJT@gmail.com)!

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# DUET ACTING

## RULES

1. Two actors may participate.
2. Materials must be drawn from published plays written for the theater or a published scene anthology. Poetry, fiction, screenplays, and lyrics will not be allowed.
3. All material should be presented as if within the full context of the performance of the play.
4. Hand props may be used if integral to the scene. Integral is defined as a hand prop that is physically used by the actor to help tell the story.
5. No costumes may be worn.
6. Not to exceed five minutes.

## MATERIALS

Each room will be provided with five sturdy, straight-backed, armless chairs, and one 4x4' card type table, which will not support weight over 25 pounds. This will be the only permissible furniture.

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# DUET MUSICAL THEATER

## RULES

1. Two students may participate.
2. The selection must be drawn from published musicals written for the theater. No original works, medleys, or screenplays are allowed. The selection may contain dialogue and both participants must be actively involved in the musical selection.
3. All material should be presented as if within the context of the performance of the play.
4. The performers **MUST** use non-vocal musical accompaniment which can be live or recorded.
5. No costumes may be worn.
6. Hand props may be used if integral to the scene. Integral is defined as a hand prop that is physically used by the actor to help tell the story.
7. Not to exceed five minutes.

## MATERIALS

Each room will be provided with 5 sturdy, straight-backed, armless chairs, and one 4x4' card type table, which will not support weight over 25 pounds. This will be the only permissible furniture.

If you wish to use a recorded track, we will provide a set of speakers, an auxiliary cable, and a dongle you may use to plug into your portable device. You are welcome to bring any other playback equipment you wish to use.

An 88-key piano or electric keyboard with a sustain pedal will be provided. You are welcome to bring your own if you are dissatisfied with the one provided.

A hard surface floor may not be provided.

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# ENSEMBLE ACTING

## RULES

1. Three to eight actors may participate.
2. The material must be drawn from published plays written for the theater or a published scene anthology. Poetry, fiction, screenplays, and lyrics will not be allowed.
3. All material should be presented as if within the full context of the performance of the play.
4. No costumes may be worn.
5. Hand props may be used if integral to the scene. Integral is defined as a hand prop that is physically used by the actor to help tell the story.
6. Not to exceed five minutes.

## MATERIALS

Each room will be provided with eight sturdy, straight-backed, armless chairs, and one 4x4' card type table, which will not support weight over 25 pounds. This will be the only permissible furniture.

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# IMPROVISATION

## RULES

1. Two performers will receive a prompt from the judges' table immediately following the student's introduction which ends with their troupe number.
2. Time will start once the prompts are in the actors' hands.
3. The students have up to five minutes from the time they get the prompt to the end of their performance. They may quietly discuss the prompt with one another before they begin performing, but any discussion counts as part of their timed event.
4. Any material that is not audience appropriate (i.e. language and adult content) is not allowed.
5. The Time Keeper's hand will go up at 4:45 as a visual warning for time.
6. The scene ends when 'time' is called by the Time Keeper or when the actors call 'scene.'

## MATERIALS

Each room will be provided with two sturdy, straight-backed, armless chairs, and one 4x4' card type table, which will not support weight over 25 pounds. This will be the only permissible furniture.

## SAMPLE PROMPTS

- Two rival gang leaders find out they have something unusual in common.
- A very famous person gets into a taxi cab.
- The Big Bad Wolf has fallen in love with one of the Three Little Pigs.
- They are trying to end their relationship, but neither of them can stop laughing.

## SPECIAL NOTE

Do you have some great one-line improvisation prompts you'd be willing to share? Email them to [JamesFSJT@gmail.com](mailto:JamesFSJT@gmail.com)!

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# LARGE GROUP MUSICAL THEATER

## RULES

1. Eight to sixteen performers may participate.
2. The selection must be drawn from published musicals written for the theater. No original works, medleys, or screenplays are allowed. The selection may contain dialogue and all participants must be actively involved in the musical selection.
3. All material should be presented as if within the full context of the performance of the play.
4. The performers **MUST** use non-vocal musical accompaniment which can be live or recorded.
5. No costumes may be worn.
6. Hand props may be used if integral to the scene. Integral is defined as a hand prop that is physically used by the actor to help tell the story.
7. Not to exceed five minutes.

## MATERIALS

Each room will be provided with sixteen sturdy, straight-backed, armless chairs, and one 4x4' card type table, which will not support weight over 25 pounds. This will be the only permissible furniture.

If you wish to use a recorded track, we will provide a set of speakers, an auxiliary cable, and a dongle you may use to plug into your portable device. You are welcome to bring any other playback equipment you wish to use.

An 88-key piano or electric keyboard with a sustain pedal will be provided. You are welcome to bring your own if you are dissatisfied with the one provided.

A hard surface floor will be provided.

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# MAKEUP DESIGN

## CHOICE OF PLAYS

The student may choose any play from the list announced by the State Board of Directors each September on the Florida State Junior Thespian web page.

## RULES

1. Student must present three renderings which can represent three different characters and/or the same character through several appropriate changes. For the purpose of this assessment, hair and teeth are considered makeup.
2. Each rendering must be executed in full color AND displayed on a 10" x 15" white display board. The display board cannot be mounted on any other surface. All faces must be 10" from top of the head to the chin. The base of the figure should be 3" from the lower edge of the board. A human face may be traced and/or used as a template upon which the makeup design may then be demonstrated. Each design should be the student's own work.
3. The board should be labeled in the following manner:  
Upper Left corner: Name of the show and author.  
Upper Right corner: Name of the character, act, and scene.  
Lower Right corner: Student's name and troupe number.
4. Each design should be accompanied by typed directions for applying the makeup using a 3-dimensional technique and a concept statement that should include script references, revealing how the design reinforces the traits of the character and how the design utilizes the use of highlight and shadow. If research is involved, indicate the sources.
5. Only one student may be involved in creating the designs. No collaboration is permitted.
6. The student must present a justification of the designs. Note cards may be used.
7. The event will not exceed ten minutes. The student presentation is not to exceed five of these ten minutes.

## MATERIALS

Each room will be provided with one 4x4' card type table, which will not support weight over 25 pounds. This will be the only permissible furniture.

## MAKEUP DISCUSSION SUGGESTIONS

1. Interpretation: Does the design visually reinforce the mood, style, character and theme of the play?

2. Execution: Are renderings executed with precision, clarity and attention to the human form?
3. Presentation: Is the designer able to justify the significant design elements in terms of characters and script used?

**SPECIAL NOTE**

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# MONOLOGUE

## RULES

1. Student will perform ONE selection representing ONE character.
2. Materials must be drawn from published plays written for the theater or a published monologue anthology. Poetry, fiction, screenplays, and lyrics will not be allowed.
3. All material should be presented as if within the full context of the performance of the play.
4. The selection may not exceed three minutes.
5. No costumes may be used.
6. Hand props may be used if integral to the scene. Integral is defined as a hand prop that is physically used by the actor to help tell the story.

## MATERIALS

Each room will be provided with three sturdy, straight-backed, armless chairs and one 4x4 card type table, which will not support weight over 25 pounds. This will be the only permissible furniture.

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# PANTOMIME

## RULES

1. One to eight performers may participate.
2. No props or costumes.
3. No theatrical makeup.
4. No lip syncing or audible sounds by the performer.
5. There are to be no lyrics or human vocal sounds in any music selection used in the performance. (This includes coughing, laughter, etc.)
6. Not to exceed five minutes.
7. This pantomime must be the original creation of the student(s). Recreating someone else's work (such as a YouTube video or similar) is not allowed.

## MATERIALS

Each room will be provided with eight sturdy, straight-backed, armless chairs. This will be the only permissible furniture.

A hard surface floor may not be provided.

If you wish to use a recorded track, we will provide a set of speakers, an auxiliary cable, and a dongle you may use to plug into your portable device. You are welcome to bring any other playback equipment you wish to use.

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# PUBLICITY DESIGN

## CHOICE OF PLAYS

The student may choose any play from the list announced by the State Board of Directors each September on the Florida State Junior Thespian web page.

## RULES

1. The following materials are to be presented:
  - a. Flyer design on 8 ½ X 11" paper
  - b. Ticket design
  - c. Program design and full layout of 4 pages
  - d. A press release
  - e. A proposal for a promotional project to be completed within the individual school.
  - f. A budget for the publicity campaign and justification of expenses. You will be judged on NOT how much you spend but how you spend it.
2. Computer aided design is acceptable.
3. The student must present justifications of the designs. Note cards may be used.
4. Only one student may be involved in the design. NO COLLABORATION.
5. All logos used must be the original work of the entrant.
6. The event will not exceed ten minutes. The student presentation is not to exceed five of these ten minutes.
7. A bibliography is required documenting all resources used including but not limited to written and electronic sources. The bibliography must be in MLA style.

## MATERIALS

Each room will be provided with one 4x4 card type table, which will not support weight over 25 pounds. This will be the only permissible furniture.

## SPECIAL NOTE

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# SCENE WRITING

[Click here to download the Florida State Junior Thespian Scene Writing Guidelines.](#)

## RULES

1. The script must be the work of one or two students. If a collaborative effort, both must attend the adjudication.
2. The text must contain dialogue and have two characters ONLY.
3. Script length must be a minimum of three text pages and a maximum of 5 text pages.
4. When submitting a scene at the State Festival level, the troupe director must upload a PDF file of the script to the registration website during the registration window. Late or emailed submissions will not be accepted, as our scene writing judges receive the scripts through the website when the registration window closes.
5. All printed text must be in the Courier font.
6. The student may not submit a scene that has been previously adjudicated by Florida State Junior Thespians. The scene must be original work.
7. Scene writing will be ten minutes in length. The playwright will introduce the play and then have a discussion with the judges.
8. Judges may make comments on the evaluation form and/or during the verbal adjudication.

## FORMAT

1. The first page of the script will be the TITLE PAGE, including information relating to the title, playwright(s), troupe director, troupe number, school address, and completion date, and will be arranged according to the Florida State Junior Thespian guidelines.
2. The second page of the script will be the SYNOPSIS PAGE, including information relating to the title, playwright(s), character breakdown (male/ female), and a 40 to 60 word summary of the play, and will be arranged according to the Florida State Junior Thespian guidelines.
3. The third page of the script will be the CHARACTER PAGE, including an alphabetized list of the two characters, and will be arranged according to the Florida State Junior Thespian guidelines.
4. The fourth and successive pages of the script will be the TEXT PAGES, and will include only the actual scene and will be arranged according to the Florida State Junior Thespian guidelines.



5. Proper formatting is part of the adjudication, and points may be deducted accordingly.

The following topics will be considered by the adjudicators while reading your play:

**Character:**

- Are goals established?
- Is the goal pursued in a manner consistent with the character's personality and limitations?
- Can an audience empathize with the protagonist?
- Are the supporting characters vital to the development and resolution of the plot?

**Dialogue:**

- Is each character's diction (choice of words) consistent with the given circumstances?
- Is all dialogue necessary to the development of the plot and each character?

**Plot:**

- Does the playwright provide all exposition necessary to understanding the characters and their situations (who, what, when, where, and why)?
- Once the initial incident is introduced, does the rising action follow a logical sequence of events to an appropriate climax and resolution?

**Stageability:**

- Will this work easily translate to the stage given the limitations of a stage play?

**BEST PRACTICE IDEAS FOR SCENE WRITING**

- Please submit all student scenes to "Turn It In" or a similar program to check for plagiarism.
- Troupe directors should read all student scenes before submitting to any festival.

**SPECIAL NOTE**

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# SET DESIGN

## CHOICE OF PLAYS

The student may choose any play from the list announced by the State Board of Directors each September on the Florida State Junior Thespian web page.

## RULES

1. The student must construct an original, three-dimensional model OR perspective rendering executed to  $1/4" = 1'0"$  OR  $1/2" = 1'0"$  showing the set and its relationship to the theatrical space.
2. Computer aided design is acceptable.
3. At least one figure (to scale) must be included in the rendering or model to show proportion and scale.
4. If a multi-set play is chosen, only ONE scene shall be designed.
5. The student must include a floor plan to the same scale.
6. The set is to be designed for a stage with a proscenium opening of 38'w x 20'h. An apron with a depth of 6' may also be used. The proscenium arch and wing space must be represented in the model.
7. The student must verbally justify the design to the adjudicators. Note cards may be used.
8. Only one student may be involved in the design. Collaborative entries will be disqualified prior to adjudication.
9. All artwork utilized must be original, and created by the participant.
10. The event will not exceed ten minutes. The student presentation is not to exceed five of these ten minutes.

## MATERIALS

Each room will be provided with one 4x4' card type table, which will not support weight over 25 pounds. This will be the only permissible furniture.

## DISCUSSION SUGGESTIONS

In your five-minute presentation you should be able to discuss the following:

- Describe the play in one sentence.

- Summarize the scene you are designing for. (What is happening?)
- Describe the setting you've designed. (Place, period, style)
- Explain how research may have influenced your design.
- What requirements of the scene influenced your design? (number of characters, entrances, exits)
- What other choices did you make? (color, decor, levels)
- If applicable, describe how the scenery appears and how it will transition into the next scene. (You do not need to design the other scenes.)

### **SPECIAL NOTE**

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# SMALL GROUP MUSICAL

## RULES

1. Three to seven students may participate.
2. The selection must be drawn from published musicals written for the theater. No original works, medleys, or screenplays are allowed. The selection may contain dialogue and all participants must be actively involved in the musical selection.
3. All material should be presented as if within the full context of the performance of the play.
4. Not to exceed five minutes.
5. No costumes may be worn.
6. The performers **MUST** use non-vocal musical accompaniment which can be live or recorded.
7. Hand props may be used if integral to the scene. Integral is defined as a hand prop that is physically used by the actor to help tell the story.

## MATERIALS

Each room will be provided with seven sturdy, straight-backed, armless chairs, and one 4x4' card type table, which will not support weight over 25 pounds. This will be the only permissible furniture.

If you wish to use a recorded track, we will provide a set of speakers, an auxiliary cable, and a dongle you may use to plug into your portable device. You are welcome to bring any other playback equipment you wish to use.

An 88-key piano or electric keyboard with a sustain pedal will be provided. You are welcome to bring your own if you are dissatisfied with the one provided.

A hard surface floor may not be provided.

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# SOLO MUSICAL

## RULES

1. The selection must be drawn from published musicals written for the theater. No original works, medleys, or screenplays are allowed. The selection may contain dialogue.
2. All material should be presented as if within the full context of the performance of the play.
3. The performer **MUST** use non-vocal musical accompaniment which can be live or recorded.
4. No costumes may be worn.
5. Hand props may be used if integral to the scene. Integral is defined as a hand prop that is physically used by the actor to help tell the story.
6. Not to exceed five minutes.

## MATERIALS

Each room will be provided with three sturdy, straight-backed, armless chairs, and one 4x4' card type table, which will not support weight over 25 pounds. This will be the only permissible furniture.

If you wish to use a recorded track, we will provide a set of speakers, an auxiliary cable, and a dongle you may use to plug into your portable device. You are welcome to bring any other playback equipment you wish to use.

An 88-key piano or electric keyboard with a sustain pedal will be provided. You are welcome to bring your own if you are dissatisfied with the one provided.

A hard surface floor may not be provided.