



2010 ESU National Shakespeare Competition

The English-Speaking Union of the United States

144 East 39th Street
New York, NY 10016

Notes for Judges

In response to feedback from judges past, we have developed this Judges' Evaluation Sheet, and would like to offer some explanation and suggestions to old hands and new.

The Evaluation Form is only a guideline. If you are new to judging you will find the need to use shorthand for your written responses because each student presentation is relatively short. We also encourage each panel of judges to develop a shared basis for discussion. Some panels have found it helpful to use a grading scale of 1 to 5 (pluses and minuses optional) as a reference before discussing results. Using this sheet you might give one grade for monologue and sonnet in each of the three categories of **Understanding, Communication, and Expression**, and an overall grade for the presentation. This grading system need not be absolute, but should be useful in narrowing the field of contenders.

We recommend that you write in the student name and choice of material before the competition begins. A few notes as the student begins, to fix APPEARANCE in your memory, will immeasurably aid subsequent recall.

Below are the three categories of evaluation:

- **UNDERSTANDING (by the student)**
A thorough understanding of the text, including language, character, and plot.
- **COMMUNICATION (to the audience)**
An effective delivery of the interpretation so that the audience understands and believes what is said and felt.
- **EXPRESSION (artistic skill)**
An unaffected, artistic range that includes the effective use of body and voice, and demonstrates an individual point-of-view.

We hope this sparer and more flexible Evaluation Form eases your task. But please feel free to customize it. Just make sure your categories are shared with fellow judges and are in tune with the sheet you've received headed "From the Judges: What They Look For," which was also given to students.

Thank you for your good will and hard work.