

2010 NATIONAL FINE ARTS & KAPPA TAU FESTIVAL

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Click on the category name to go directly to that category's criteria.

Art Division

- *GRAPHIC DESIGN
- *PHOTOGRAPHY, DIGITAL
- *PHOTOGRAPHY, TRADITIONAL
- *T-SHIRT DESIGN
- *VISUAL ART, THREE DIMENSIONAL
- *VISUAL ART, TWO DIMENSIONAL

Communication Division

- *AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE GROUP
- *AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE SOLO
- CHILDREN'S LESSON GROUP
- CHILDREN'S LESSON SOLO
- PUPPETRY GROUP
- PUPPETRY SOLO
- *SHORT FILM
- *SHORT SERMON
- SHORT SERMON, SPANISH

Drama Division

- DRAMA ENSEMBLE (KAPPA TAU ONLY)
- DRAMA ENSEMBLE, LARGE
- DRAMA ENSEMBLE, SMALL
- *DRAMA SOLO
- HUMAN VIDEO (KAPPA TAU ONLY)
- HUMAN VIDEO ENSEMBLE, LARGE
- HUMAN VIDEO ENSEMBLE, SMALL
- HUMAN VIDEO SOLO

Exhibition Division

- ASL STORYTELLING
- HUMAN VIDEO ENSEMBLE, SPANISH
- INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE, CONTEMPORARY
- PERFORMANCE ART
- *SPOKEN WORD
- VOCAL ENSEMBLE, SPANISH
- *WORSHIP DANCE SOLO
- *WORSHIP DANCE TROUPE

Instrumental Division

- GUITAR SOLO
- INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE, TRADITIONAL
- KEYBOARD SOLO
- PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE, TRADITIONAL
- PERCUSSION SOLO, TRADITIONAL
- PERCUSSION, UNCONVENTIONAL
- STRING SOLO
- WIND/BRASS SOLO

Vocal Division

- CHOIR
- *CHRISTIAN BAND
- RAP GROUP
- RAP SOLO
- SONGWRITING
- VOCAL ENSEMBLE, LARGE
- VOCAL ENSEMBLE, SMALL
- *VOCAL SOLO, FEMALE
- *VOCAL SOLO, MALE
- VOCAL SOLO, SPANISH FEMALE
- VOCAL SOLO, SPANISH MALE
- *WORSHIP TEAM

Writing Division

- *BOOK CHAPTER
- *CHILDREN'S LITERATURE
- *FIRST PERSON ESSAY
- *POETRY
- *SCRIPT WRITING
- *SHORT STORY

**Fine Arts and Kappa Tau category.*

ART DIVISION

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Selection

- Appropriate – appropriate for this festival in subject and taste; appropriate level of difficulty.
- Fresh concept – demonstrates a fresh approach.

Communication

- Initial impression – initial visual impact; meaning and theme interpretation readily grasped.
- Originality – displays an individualistic style; avoids overused ideas or concepts.
- Range of appeal – relevant and appealing to multiple audiences.
- Theme interpretation – clearly or creatively represents annual theme.
- Visual impact – imagery that is visually compelling; forceful, subtle, or vivid.

Presentation/Technique

- Clarity – well defined in its intent.
- Consistency – consistent use of medium.
- Finished presentation – completeness; graphic design entries must be mounted flat on art board or framed and no smaller than 4 by 6 inches; no larger than 32 by 32 inches.
- Organization – apparent focal point; organization of compositional elements.
- Proportion – appropriate use of space.
- Technique – proper use of the medium.
- Use of color/values – consistent and visually enhancing color and/or gradation.
- Use of type – correct spelling, interesting use of fonts and font sizes, interesting use of upper/lower case.

Effectiveness

- Effectiveness – produces an overall effective visual impression or impact
- Preparation – an apparent effort of time and thought in preparation.
- Understandable concept – the combination of subject selection, communication, presentation/technique and effectiveness in attaining a response.

ART DIVISION

PHOTOGRAPHY

Selection

- Appropriate – appropriate for this festival in subject and taste; appropriate level of difficulty; should reflect a Christian world view but overtly “religious” subject, symbols, or theme are not required.
- Fresh concept – demonstrates a fresh approach.
- Style – keeps with genre (traditional or digital).

Communication

- Initial impression – initial visual impact; meaning and general intent readily grasped.
- Originality – displays an individualistic style; avoids overused ideas or concepts.
- Range of appeal – relevant and appealing to multiple audiences.
- Visual impact – imagery that is visually compelling; forceful, subtle, or vivid.

Presentation/Technique

- Consistency – consistent use of medium.
- Elements of design – incorporation of shape, line, pattern, texture, space, framing, size, angle and cropping.
- Finished presentation – completeness; photograph must be mounted or framed with overall size no smaller than 4 by 6 inches and no larger than 32 by 32 inches.
- Flow – a natural flow of image(s) for viewer’s eye.
- Lighting – effective use of light; develops mood and nuance.
- Organization – apparent focal point; organization of compositional elements.
- Proportion – appropriate use of space.
- Technique – proper use of the medium.
- Use of color/contrast – black and white reveals contrast; color is clear and appropriate for image.

Effectiveness

- Effectiveness – produces an overall effective visual impression or impact
- Preparation – an apparent effort of time and thought in preparation.
- Understandable concept – the combination of subject selection, communication, presentation/technique and effectiveness in attaining a response.

ART DIVISION

T-SHIRT DESIGN

Selection

- Appropriate – appropriate for this festival in subject and taste; appropriate level of difficulty.
- Fresh concept – demonstrates a fresh approach.
- Theme interpretation – clearly or creatively represents annual theme.

Communication

- Initial impression – initial visual impact; meaning and theme interpretation readily grasped.
- Originality – displays an individualistic style; avoids overused ideas or concepts.
- Range of appeal – relevant and appealing to multiple audiences.
- Visual impact – imagery that is visually compelling; forceful, subtle, or vivid.

Presentation/Technique

- Clarity – well defined in its intent.
- Consistency – consistent use of medium.
- Finished presentation – completeness; design submitted in finished T-shirt format should be mounted on art or T-shirt board no larger than 32 by 32 inches. T-shirt design submitted in color proof format should be mounted on art board no smaller than 4 by 6 inches and no larger than 32 by 32 inches.
- Organization – apparent focal point; organization of compositional elements.
- Proportion – appropriate use of space.
- Technique – proper use of the medium.
- Use of color/values – consistent and visually enhancing color and/or gradation.
- Use of type – correct spelling, interesting use of fonts and font sizes, interesting use of upper/lower case.

Effectiveness

- Effectiveness – produces an overall effective visual impression or impact.
- Preparation – an apparent effort of time and thought in preparation.
- Understandable concept – the combination of subject selection, communication, presentation/technique and effectiveness in attaining a response.

ART DIVISION

VISUAL ART

Selection

- Appropriate – appropriate for this festival in subject and taste; appropriate level of difficulty; should reflect a Christian world view but overtly “religious” subject, symbols, or theme are not required.
- Fresh concept – demonstrates a fresh approach.

Communication

- Initial impression – initial visual impact; meaning and general intent readily grasped.
- Originality – displays individualistic style; avoids overused ideas or concepts.
- Range of appeal – relevant and appealing to multiple audiences.
- Visual impact – imagery that is visually compelling; forceful, subtle, or vivid.

Presentation/Technique

- Consistency – consistent use of medium.
- Finished presentation – completeness; entry must be mounted and framed; overall size, including mounting and frame can be no smaller than 4 by 6 inches and no larger than 32 by 32 inches.
- Flow – a natural flow of image(s) for the viewer’s eye.
- Neatness – clean appearance; free of smudges.
- Organization – apparent focal point; organization of compositional elements.
- Proportion – appropriate use of space.
- Technique – proper use of the medium.
- Use of color/values – consistent and visually enhancing color and/or gradation.

Effectiveness

- Effectiveness – produces an overall effective visual impression or impact.
- Preparation – an apparent effort of time and thought in preparation.
- Understandable concept – the combination of subject selection, communication, presentation/technique and effectiveness in attaining a response.

COMMUNICATION DIVISION

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE GROUP/SOLO

Selection

- Appropriate – appropriate for this festival; appropriate level of difficulty.
- Christian message – presents a Christian perspective and message with ministry effectiveness in mind.

Communication

- ASL structure – ASL grammatical structure (not English).
- Clarity and hand-positioning – hands should be clearly within signing space; finger spelling should be clear and accurate.
- Clarity of signs – signs easily understood individually.
- Conceptual accuracy – appropriate choice of signs for overall meaning; message is easily understood.
- Interpretation of meaning – shows a visual picture instead of signing only word order.
- Facial expression – demonstrates appropriate emotion for the conceptual sign; eye contact.
- Originality – use of original and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.

Presentation Technique

- Creative elements – thoughtful and creative application of signs.
- Directionality – proper direction of signs for whom the message is intended.
- Energy – demonstrates the emotion of song with appropriate energy.
- Presenter appearance – professional attire; shoes; solid, color-contrasting shirt to skin tone; hair pulled back if necessary; absence of visual noise such as rings, watches, necklaces, etc.
- Sign placement – setting up the space appropriately.
- Spacing – use of space; signs are large enough to be seen by entire audience.
- Stage presence – command of stage; control, confidence, and comfort.
- Synchronization – uniform precision of signers during synchronized parts of the song.
- Use of classifiers – hand shapes that represent a person or object.

Effectiveness

- Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
- Interpretation – overall effectiveness and visual impact.
- Preparation – an apparent effort of thought and time in preparation.
- Memorization – strong knowledge of lyrics and signing of the selection.
- Understandable concept – the combination of song selection, communication, presentation/technique and effectiveness in attaining a response.

COMMUNICATION DIVISION

CHILDREN'S LESSON

Selection

- Appropriate – appropriate for this festival; appropriate level of difficulty; appropriate for intended audience.
- Christian message – presents a Christian perspective and message with age-appropriate ministry effectiveness in mind.
- Originality – use of original and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.
- Theme development – annual theme clearly and creatively woven throughout presentation.

Communication

- Expression/body language – enhancement of delivery by use of nonverbal communication (i.e. facial expressions, hand and arm gestures).
- Physical energy – energetic and consistent presence for target audience throughout the performance.
- Posture – effective stance appropriate for public speaking, stage presence and proper breath support.
- Stage presence – command of stage; control, confidence and comfort.
- Timing – the ability to move from point to point smoothly and with a sense of pacing; effective use of allotted time spent on opening, main points and conclusion.
- Vocal clarity – appropriate use of volume and proper pronunciation.

Presentation Technique

- Elicits response – demonstrates purpose of sermon with a question for a response in conclusion.
- Opening/conclusion – attaining and maintaining the attention of the target audience.
- Performance – character, puppetry or scene additions as well as props and/or signs should enhance not detract from performance and message.
- Structure of content – effective organization of thoughts communicated for understanding, believability and remembrance.
- Transitions – statements that bridge the main points of the sermon.
- Use of Scripture – incorporates Scriptural text and quotations.
- Use of illustrations – incorporates vivid image, characters, examples, testimony and object lessons as reinforcements to sermon topic.

If group entries use puppets:

- Delivery and timing – demonstrates understanding of the pace of the scene in order to generate a response; body movements should relate to the rhythm of the music.
- Entrance and exit – smooth, precise, and believable transitions.
- Grouping and group dynamic – purposeful use of each puppet and effective relationships.
- Lip synchronization – puppets mouths should move in sync with the words as they are spoken or sung.
- Mouth action – dropping of the jaw, not the whole head.
- Posture – puppets should be straight and have good posture; puppets should not sink out of site, lean on the stage, etc.
- Spacing – puppets appropriately spaced with plenty of room; the best use of the stage space.

Effectiveness

- Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
- Preparation – an apparent effort of time and thought in preparation.
- Relevance – appropriate and relevant application.
- Understandable concept – the sermon selection, communication, presentation/technique and effectiveness in attaining a response.

COMMUNICATION DIVISION

PUPPETRY

Selection

- Appropriate – appropriate for this festival; appropriate level of difficulty; appropriate for intended audience.
- Christian message – presents Christian perspective or message with ministry effectiveness in mind.
- Originality – use of original and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.

Communication

- Character development – full realization of who the character(s) become throughout the production.
- Choreography – strong knowledge of lyrics and actions of the piece.
- Eye contact – puppets face audience when speaking.
- Objective – presents a central truth easily grasped by the audience.
- Performance – scene additions, props, signs, and lighting should enhance not detract from performance and message.
- Physical energy – energetic and consistent presence throughout the performance.
- Script development – completely develops both storyline and characters.
- Stage presence – command of stage; control, confidence and comfort.
- Vocal clarity – appropriate use of volume and proper pronunciation.

Presentation/Technique

- Delivery and timing – demonstrates understanding of the pace of the scene in order to generate a response; body movements should relate to the rhythm of the music.
- Entrance and exit – smooth, precise, and believable transitions.
- Grouping and group dynamic – purposeful use of each puppet and effective relationships.
- Lip synchronization – puppets mouths should move in sync with the words as they are spoken or sung.
- Mouth action – dropping of the jaw, not the whole head.
- Posture – puppets should be straight and have good posture; puppets should not sink out of site, lean on the stage, etc.
- Spacing – puppets appropriately spaced with plenty of room; the best use of the stage space.
- Storyline presentation – successful conveyance of the intended purpose of the puppet(s) throughout piece by using motion, body language and action.

Effectiveness

- Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
- Preparation – an apparent effort of time and thought in preparation.
- Relevance to audience – appropriate and effective for the entire audience.
- Understandable concept – the combination of script selection, communication, presentation/technique and effectiveness in attaining a response.

COMMUNICATION DIVISION

SHORT FILM

Selection

- Appropriate – appropriate for this festival; appropriate level of difficulty.
- Christian message – should reflect a Christian world view but overtly “religious” subject, symbols, or theme are not required.
- Script development – fresh and creative script; not tired or cliché.

Communication

- Body communication – actors effectively and believably communicate with body language and facial expression.
- Directing – choice of camera shots, angles, and movement that help communicate mood and emotion.
- Imagery – the use of color, reflections, shadows, shapes or icon images effectively enhance the mood and message.
- Music – contributes to mood and helps communicate the message.
- Originality – use of original and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.
- Verbal communication – lines flow naturally and communicate effectively while moving the story and message forward.

Presentation Technique

- Appropriate shot – appropriate shots are used for the specific situation (wide, medium, close-ups, pans, zooms, dolly, crane, etc.).
- Audio mix – balanced and clearly understood audio; voices and voice-overs can be clearly heard and understood above the music.
- Balanced lighting – consistent lighting with appropriate balance between foreground and background.
- Color balance – appropriate color/temperature light is used for the specific situation.
- Color correction – shots in the same scene are similar in color balance, contrast, and appearance.
- Flow and pacing – frames flow together into a cohesive story; edits do not cause the story to be jumpy or to drag.
- F/X and Foley – natural and appropriate use of F/X and/or Foley.
- Hook – opening sequence immediately grabs the attention of the audience.
- Lighting – effective use of light; develops mood and nuance.
- Open/close – title and credits are appropriate for the production.
- Proper framing – camera shots have proper headroom and nose room.
- Setting and set – appropriate setting and location for the story being told and the set is believable. The set should carry both dimension and depth.
- Story telling – shots and the sequence of editing selected for effective story-telling.
- The line of action – shots do not cross the line of action.
- Transparent editing – edits are transparent; the story shines through.
- Wardrobe – appropriate wardrobe selections for the roles played by the actors as well as scene setting.

Effectiveness

- Acting effectiveness – the overall effectiveness of the performance of the actors (i.e., were they believable?).
- Climax – believable plot reaches a climax that resolves the conflict.
- Conflict – clearly established conflict.

- Introduction – time, setting, and main characters are quickly revealed.
- Message effectiveness – evokes a powerful viewer response (i.e. an emotional response or a personal challenge).
- Production effectiveness – an overall cohesiveness of story, casting, production technique, style and genre.
- Plot development – develops towards a climax.
- Resolve – the story ties up loose ends. If the audience is left hanging, it is intended. A hanging end should not be the result of poor scripting.

COMMUNICATION DIVISION

SHORT SERMON

Selection

- Appropriate – appropriate for this festival; appropriate level of difficulty.
- Christian message – presents a solidly Biblical perspective with ministry effectiveness in mind.
- Theme development – annual theme clearly and creatively woven throughout presentation.

Communication

- Expression/body language – use of nonverbal communication (i.e. facial expressions, hand and arm gestures) that enhance the delivery of the sermon.
- Originality – use of original and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.
- Posture – effective stance appropriate for public speaking, stage presence and proper breath support.
- Stage presence – command of stage; control, confidence and comfort.
- Timing – the ability to move from point to point smoothly and with a sense of pacing; effective use of allotted time spent on opening, main points and conclusion.
- Vocal clarity – appropriate volume for audience; proper pronunciation of words with appropriate tone and inflection.

Presentation Technique

- Use of Scripture – Scriptural text/quotations foundational to overall presentation.
- Elicits response – demonstrates purpose of sermon with a question for a response in conclusion.
- Opening/conclusion – use of quote, question, illustration or story used to capture audience's interest in topic of sermon; the conclusion recapping the main points and calling for a final response.
- Structure of content – effective organization of thoughts communicated for understanding, believability and remembrance.
- Transitions – statements that bridge the main points of the sermon.
- Use of illustrations – incorporates vivid image, examples, testimony, statistics, or quotations as reinforcements to sermon topic with proper recognition of sources.

Effectiveness

- Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
- Preparation – an apparent effort of time and thought in preparation.
- Relevance – appropriate and relevant application.
- Understandable concept – the sermon selection, communication, presentation/technique and effectiveness in attaining a response.

DRAMA DIVISION

DRAMA

Selection

- Appropriate – appropriate for this festival; appropriate level of difficulty.
- Christian message – presents a Christian perspective and message with ministry effectiveness in mind.
- Originality – use of original and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.
- Theme development – annual theme creatively woven throughout presentation.

Communication

- Character development – a full realization of who the character(s) become(s) throughout the presentation.
- Expression – nonverbal communication (i.e. facial expressions, gestures, posture) that enhances mood of the presentation.
- Posture – use of whole body to enhance character.
- Stage presence – command of stage; control, confidence and comfort.
- Vocal clarity – appropriate volume; proper pronunciation of words with effective tone and inflection.

Presentation Technique

- Action – natural movement of the actor(s) that is both original and creative enhancing the idea of the presentation.
- Actor's focus – to whom or where is the actor is speaking? Ability to remain "in character"; if multiple characters are being played by a single actor(s), transitions should be clear, distinctive and creative.
- Blocking – proper staging; movement with purpose; staging that best allows full view of actors face and body placement with appropriate spacing to provide a clean and uncluttered stage picture.
- Characterization – believable representation of human motives, thoughts, actions and emotions.
- Delivery – strong delivery of lines using proper pronunciation of words to help develop an effective mood and tone of the line.
- Timing/dialogue – understanding and excellent execution of the pacing of the scene and the delivery of the lines.

Effectiveness

- Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
- Interpretation – a conclusive voice stating the overall message.
- Preparation – an apparent effort of thought and time in preparation.
- Memorization – strong knowledge of the lines and action of the piece.
- Understandable concept – the combination of script selection, communication, presentation/technique and effectiveness in attaining a response.

DRAMA DIVISION

HUMAN VIDEO

Selection

- Appropriate – appropriate for this festival: appropriate level of difficulty.
- Christian message – presents a Christian perspective and message with ministry effectiveness in mind.
- Composition quality – quality and unaltered sound; splicing should flow easily with a clear connection between selections.
- Originality – use of original and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.

Communication

- Body language – appropriate gestures and body movement for individual character(s).
- Character development – a full realization of who the character(s) become(s) throughout the presentation.
- Facial expression – facial expressions convey the character's disposition, mood, and include lip sync of song's lyrics.
- Physical energy – demonstrates the emotion with exaggerated energy of character(s).
- Stage presence – command of stage; control, confidence and comfort.

Presentation/Technique

- Action – natural movement of the actor(s) that is both original and creative to enhance the idea of the presentation.
- Actor's focus – to whom or where is the actor speaking? Ability to remain "in character"; if multiple characters are being played by a single actor, transitions should be clear, distinctive and creative.
- Blocking – proper staging; movement with purpose; staging that best allows full view of actors face and body.
- Characterization – believable representation of characters' motives, thoughts, actions and emotions.
- Development – complete, understandable, and believable development of the storyline and characters.
- Mounts – mounts, object-building, gymnastic, or cheer-type elements fit believably within the storyline or character development.
- Presentation of storyline – well-developed and recognizable storyline; actor(s) successfully convey intended purpose of character(s) throughout presentation (with facial expression, motion, body language and action).
- Timing/delivery – understanding and excellent execution of the pace of the scene(s).
- Uniformity – uniform body movements; uniform lip sync between multiple characters (ensemble).

Effectiveness

- Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
- Interpretation – actual conveyance of the message of the song through the overall presentation.
- Preparation – an apparent effort of thought and time in preparation.
- Memorization – strong and evident knowledge of the lyrics.
- Understandable concept – the combination of music selection, communication, presentation/technique, and effectiveness in attaining a response.

EXHIBITION DIVISION

ASL STORYTELLING

Selection

- Appropriate – appropriate for this festival; appropriate level of difficulty.
- Christian message – presents a Christian perspective and message with ministry effectiveness in mind.
- Originality – use of original and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.

Communication

- ASL vocabulary – has a wide range of ASL vocabulary choices to accurately represent the concept being conveyed.
- Clarity and hand-positioning – hands should be clearly within signing space; finger spelling should be clear and accurate.
- Clarity of intent – signs easily understood for overall meaning.
- Clarity of signs – signs easily understood individually.
- Conceptual accuracy – appropriate choice of signs for overall meaning; message is easily understood.
- Eye Contact – establishment of sincere eye contact with audience.
- Facial expression – demonstrates appropriate emotion for the conceptual sign.
- Rhythm – effective story pacing; effective use of movements and holds (movement duration) for good storytelling.

Presentation Technique

- Classifiers – liberal use of hand shapes that represent a person or object.
- Creative elements – thoughtful and creative application of signs.
- Directionality – proper direction of signs.
- Presenter appearance – professional attire; shoes; solid, color-contrasting shirt to skin tone; hair pulled back if necessary; absence of visual noise such as rings, watches, necklaces, etc.
- Sign placement – setting up the space appropriately.
- Spacing – use of space; signs are large enough to be seen by entire audience.
- Stage presence – command of stage; control, confidence, and comfort.
- Taking roles – thoughtful and creative use of body-shift and eye-gaze.

Effectiveness

- Effectiveness – overall impact.
- Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
- Preparation – an apparent effort of thought and time in preparation.
- Understandable concept – the combination of story selection, communication, presentation/technique and effectiveness in attaining a response.

EXHIBITION DIVISION

INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE, CONTEMPORARY

Selection

- Appropriate – appropriate for this festival; appropriate level of difficulty.
- Originality – original in its concept and structure; use of creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.
- Overall arrangement – well-rounded, cohesive musical statement.

Communication

- Communication – ability to connect with audience.
- Posture – conducive for effective performance.
- Communicative skill – interprets the overall musical intent (i.e. emotion, energy, musical line, personal involvement/connectivity to theme of arrangement).
- Expressiveness – appropriate musical interpretation; musical and facial expression.
- Stage presence – command of stage and instrument; control, confidence and comfort.
- Unique arrangement – a unique arrangement; interesting melody and movement of the piece; not mundane.

Presentation/Technique

- Control – command of the instrument(s) to produce desired tone and effect.
- Dynamics – effective use of contrasting volumes.
- Fingering – smooth dexterity in chords, scales and patterns.
- Intonation – accurate pitch of the instrument, maintaining correct intervals.
- Phrasing – interesting melodic and instrumental phrasing.
- Precision/accuracy – skillful exactness of the presentation.
- Rhythmic stability – evenness of rhythm (timing, vibrato, etc.).
- Tone Quality – clarity and accuracy of pitch, volume, and timbre.

Effectiveness

- Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
- Interpretation of clear thought – consistent interpretation of the musical style and lyrical line throughout the song.
- Relevance – music is in a style and form that connects with the listener.
- Understandable concept – the combination of music selection, communication, presentation/technique and effectiveness.

EXHIBITION DIVISION

PERFORMANCE ART

Selection

- Appropriate – appropriate for this festival in subject and taste; appropriate level of difficulty; should reflect a Christian world view but overtly “religious” subject, symbols, or theme are not required..
- Fresh concept – demonstrates a fresh approach.

Communication

- Initial impression – initial visual impact; meaning and general intent readily grasped.
- Originality – displays individualistic style; avoids overused ideas or concepts.
- Range of appeal – relevant and appealing to multiple audiences.
- Visual impact – imagery that is visually compelling; forceful, subtle, or vivid.

Presentation/Technique

- Consistency – consistent use of medium.
- Finished presentation – completeness.
- Flow – a natural flow of image(s) for the viewer’s eye.
- Organization – apparent focal point; organization of compositional elements.
- Proportion – appropriate use of space.
- Technique – proper use of the medium.
- Use of color/values – consistent and visually enhancing color and/or gradation.

Effectiveness

- Effectiveness – produces an overall effective visual impression or impact.
- Preparation – an apparent effort of time and thought in preparation.
- Understandable concept – the combination of subject selection, communication, presentation/technique and effectiveness in attaining a response.

EXHIBITION DIVISION

SPOKEN WORD

Selection

- Appropriate – appropriate for this festival in subject and taste
- Theme development – annual theme creatively woven throughout presentation.
- Originality – unique use of original and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach

Communication

- Development – full development of ideas and expressions throughout piece
- Flow of thought – connectivity of ideas and flow
- Fresh imagery/word play – figures of speech, sound devices, and linguistic effects achieved through various patterns and variations in diction
- Sound devices – assonance, alliteration, consonance
- Diction – choice and arrangement of words
- Freshness of expression – avoidance of clichés; creating fresh and vivid imagery

Presentation/Technique

- Timing/delivery – demonstrates an understanding/execution of excellent pacing for the most effective performance possible
- Voice – unique presence of the creator of the piece; not necessarily the speaker in the piece but a recognizable presence of a distinctive author behind and inside everything in the work
- Clarity/style – demonstrates a distinctive mode of expression
- Posture/Facial expression – use of nonverbal communication to enhance the impact and performance of the piece
- Rhythm/musicality – audible experience of the written work including sound devices, rhythm and the way sound compliments the meaning and intent of the piece
- Stage presence – command of stage; control, confidence and comfort
- Energy – appropriate physical, emotional and audible connectivity to the subject and theme of the piece

Effectiveness

- Evident connection – overall impact of the piece combining writing, communication and performance
- Evident message – understandable concept; evident impact
- Preparation – and apparent effort of thought and time in all elements of presentation

EXHIBITION DIVISION

VOCAL ENSEMBLE, SPANISH

Selection

- Appropriate – appropriate for this festival; appropriate level of difficulty.
- Arrangement – well-rounded, cohesive musical statement.
- Christian message – presents a Christian perspective and message with ministry effectiveness in mind.
- Display of vocal range – demonstrates a wide vocal range.

Communication

- Communicative skill – ability to connect with audience.
- Expressiveness – both facial expression and use of body language.
- Posture – relaxed body stance for proper breath support and management.
- Stage presence – command of stage; control, confidence and comfort.
- Unity – demonstrates ensemble cohesiveness.

Presentation/Technique

- Articulation – executes articulate phrases (i.e. 'staccato' – short, 'marcato' – marked, and 'legato' – connected).
- Blend – creating a balanced sound.
- Breathing – proper breath management.
- Diction – proper enunciation of words.
- Dynamics – effective use of contrasting volumes.
- Intonation – ability to sing in tune.
- Phrasing – completeness of a lyrical statement.
- Rhythmic precision – ability to internalize the pulse.
- Tone quality – ability to produce clear and pleasant tone.

Effectiveness

- Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
- Memorization – strong knowledge of the lyrics and melody of the song(s).
- Preparation – an apparent effort of thought and time in preparing the selection.
- Understandable concept – the combination of music selection, communication, presentation/technique and effectiveness in attaining a response.

EXHIBITION DIVISION

WORSHIP DANCE

Selection

- Appropriate – appropriate for this festival; appropriate level of difficulty; appropriate attire for genre with ministry effectiveness in mind.

Communication

- Expressiveness – both facial expression and use of body language.
- Stage presence – command of stage; control, confidence and comfort.
- Unity – demonstrates ensemble cohesiveness (troupe).
- Communicative skill – ability to connect with audience.

Presentation/Technique

- Alignment - proper lines according to arms and feet positions, legs, and body composition.
- Arm positions – transition from one position to the next; proper placement, use of back.
- Artistry – connection and interpretation of song.
- Use of feet – turn out; pointed; supple movement.
- Grace – ease of flow through movement.
- Memorization – ability to know order of steps.
- Rhythm – coordinating movements to the beat of the music.
- Execution – effective execution of jumps, leaps, and turns; ability to perform tricks with ease and grace; proper alignment of body.

Effectiveness

- Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
- Preparation – an apparent effort of thought and time in preparing the selection.
- Understandable concept – the combination of music selection, communication, presentation/technique and effectiveness in attaining a response.

INSTRUMENTAL DIVISION

GUITAR SOLO

Selection

- Appropriate – appropriate for this festival; appropriate level of difficulty.
- Arrangement/composition – a well-rounded, cohesive musical statement.
- Originality – use of original and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.

Communication

- Communication – ability to connect with audience.
- Communicative skill – interprets the overall musical intent (i.e. emotion, energy, musical line, personal involvement/connectivity to theme of arrangement).
- Expressiveness – appropriate musical interpretation; both musical and facial expression.
- Posture – conducive for performance.
- Stage presence – command of stage and instrument; control, confidence and comfort.

Presentation/Technique

- Control – command of the instrument to produce desired tone and affect.
- Dynamics – effective use of contrasting volumes.
- Fingering – smooth dexterity in chords, scales, arpeggios and patterns.
- Intonation – accurate pitch of the instrument, maintaining correct intervals.
- Phrasing – produces complete musical sentences.
- Precision/accuracy – skillful exactness of the presentation.
- Rhythmic stability – evenness of rhythm.
- Tone quality – clarity and accuracy of pitch, volume, and timbre.

Effectiveness

- Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
- Memorization – strong knowledge of the arrangement, melody and movements of the song(s).
- Preparation – an apparent effort of thought and time in preparation.
- Understandable concept – the combination of music selection, communication, presentation/technique and effectiveness in attaining a response.

INSTRUMENTAL DIVISION

INSTRUMENTAL (ENSEMBLE & WIND/BRASS SOLO)

Selection

- Appropriate – appropriate for this festival; appropriate level of difficulty.
- Arrangement/composition – a well-rounded, cohesive musical statement.
- Originality – use of original and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.

Communication

- Communication – ability to connect with audience.
- Communicative skill – interprets the overall musical intent (i.e. emotion, energy, musical line, personal involvement/connectivity to theme of arrangement).
- Expressiveness – appropriate musical interpretation; musical and facial expression.
- Posture – standing or sitting comfortably; conducive for performance.
- Stage presence – command of stage and instrument; control, confidence and comfort.

Presentation/Technique

- Blend – achieves balance between instruments (ensemble).
- Breathing – proper breath management.
- Control – command of the instrument to produce desired tone and affect.
- Dynamics – effective use of contrasting volumes.
- Fingering – smooth dexterity in chords, scales, arpeggios and patterns.
- Intonation – accurate pitch of the instrument, maintaining correct intervals.
- Phrasing – produces complete musical sentences.
- Precision/accuracy – skillful exactness of the presentation.
- Rhythmic stability – evenness of rhythm (timing, vibrato, etc.).
- Tone quality – pleasing pitch, volume and timeline.

Effectiveness

- Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
- Preparation – an apparent effort of thought and time in preparation.
- Memorization – strong knowledge of the music (for solo entries only; ensembles do not require memorization).
- Understandable concept – the combination of music selection, communication, presentation/technique and effectiveness attaining a response.

INSTRUMENTAL DIVISION

KEYBOARD SOLO

Selection

- Appropriate – appropriate for this festival; appropriate level of difficulty.
- Arrangement/composition – a well-rounded, cohesive musical statement.
- Originality – if written or arranged by the student, use of original and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.

Communication

- Communication – ability to connect with audience.
- Expressiveness – appropriate musical interpretation.
- Interpretive skill – interprets the overall musical intent (i.e. emotion, energy, musical line, personal involvement/connectivity to theme of arrangement).
- Posture – conducive for performance.
- Stage presence – command of stage and instrument; control, confidence and comfort.

Presentation/Technique

- Chording technique – if the piece is improvised, skillful use of various chords, progressions, inversions, etc. to enhance the arrangement.
- Control – command of the instrument to produce desired tone and affect.
- Dynamics – effective use of contrasting volumes.
- Fingering – smooth dexterity in chords, scales, arpeggios and patterns.
- Modulating technique – accurate key changes (if it is improvised, the effective use of chords, progressions, scales, and arpeggios, etc. in making key changes).
- Phrasing – produces complete musical sentences.
- Precision/accuracy – skillful exactness of the presentation.
- Rhythmic stability – evenness of rhythm.

Effectiveness

- Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
- Memorization – complete knowledge of the piece from memory.
- Preparation – an apparent effort of thought and time in preparation.
- Overall effectiveness– the combination of music selection, communication, presentation/technique to achieve overall effectiveness.

INSTRUMENTAL DIVISION

PERCUSSION

Selection

- Appropriate – appropriate for this festival; appropriate level of difficulty.
- Arrangement/composition – a well-rounded, cohesive musical statement.
- Originality – use of original and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.

Communication

- Communication – ability to connect with audience.
- Communicative skill – interprets the overall musical intent (i.e. emotion, energy, personal involvement/ connectivity to theme of arrangement).
- Expressiveness – appropriate musical interpretation; musical and facial expression.
- Interpretation – actual conveyance of the message of the piece through the presentation.
- Posture – posture conducive for performance.
- Stage presence – command of stage and instrument; control, confidence and comfort.
- Unity – demonstrates the art of working together (ensemble).

Presentation/Technique

- Blend – achieves balance between instruments or movements of the piece.
- Control – command of the instrument(s) to produce desired effects.
- Dynamics – effective use of contrasting volumes.
- Phrasing – produces complete musical sentences.
- Precision/accuracy – skillful exactness of the presentation.
- Rhythmic stability – evenness of rhythm.
- Tone quality – a musical sound having a definite pitch, volume, or timeline.

Effectiveness

- Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
- Memorization – strong knowledge of the melody of the song(s).
- Preparation – an apparent effort of thought and time in preparation.
- Understandable concept – the combination of music selection, communication, presentation/technique, and effectiveness attaining a response.

INSTRUMENTAL DIVISION

STRING SOLO

Selection

- Appropriate – appropriate for this festival; appropriate level of difficulty.
- Arrangement/composition – a well-rounded, cohesive musical statement.
- Originality – use of original and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.

Communication

- Communication – ability to connect with audience.
- Communicative skill – interprets the overall musical intent (i.e. emotion, energy, musical line, personal involvement/connectivity to theme of arrangement).
- Expressiveness – appropriate musical interpretation; musical and facial expression.
- Posture – conducive for performance.
- Stage presence – command of stage and instrument; control, confidence and comfort.

Presentation/Technique

- Control – command of the instrument to produce desired tone and affect.
- Dynamics – effective use of contrasting volumes.
- Fingering – smooth dexterity in chords, scales, arpeggios, and patterns.
- Intonation – accurate pitch of the instrument, maintaining correct intervals.
- Phrasing – produces complete musical sentences.
- Precision/accuracy – skillful exactness of the presentation.
- Rhythmic stability – evenness of rhythm (timing, vibrato, etc.).
- Technique – if bowed – proper bow hold; if plucked – proper tension and control.
- Tone quality – a musical sound having a definite pitch, volume, and timbre.

Effectiveness

- Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
- Memorization – strong knowledge of the melody of the song(s).
- Preparation – an apparent effort of thought and time in preparation.
- Understandable concept – the combination of music selection, communication, presentation/technique and effectiveness in attaining a response.

VOCAL DIVISION

CHRISTIAN BAND

Selection

- Appropriate – appropriate for this festival; appropriate level of difficulty.
- Arrangement – consistent with genre.
- Christian message – presents a Christian perspective and message with ministry effectiveness in mind.
- Originality – use of original and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.

Communication

- Communicative skill – interprets the overall musical intent (i.e. emotion, energy, musical line, personal involvement/connectivity to theme of arrangement).
- Expressiveness – musical and facial expression; use of body language.
- Stage presence – command of stage and/or instrument; control, confidence and comfort.
- Unity – cohesiveness of vocalists and instrumentalists.
- Vocal clarity – articulation; enunciation of words, projecting with the correct inflection and control appropriate for the presentation.

Presentation/Technique

- Blend – creates a balanced sound.
- Breathing – proper breath management.
- Dynamics – effective use of contrasting volumes.
- Energy – demonstrates vitality appropriate for the selection.
- Intonation – ability to sing and play in tune.
- Musical transitions – flow of music.
- Phrasing – completeness of a musical statement.
- Rhythmic precision – ability to internalize the pulse.
- Tone quality – vocally consistent with genre; musically, a sound having a definite pitch, volume and texture.

Effectiveness

- Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
- Interpretation – actual conveyance of the message of the piece through the presentation.
- Memorization – strong knowledge of the chord progressions, lyrics and movements of the selection.
- Preparation – an apparent effort of thought and time in preparation.
- Understandable concept – the combination of music selection, communication, presentation/technique and effectiveness in attaining a response.

VOCAL DIVISION

RAP

Selection

- Appropriate – appropriate for this festival; appropriate level of difficulty.
- Arrangement – creative structure of verse and/or chorus with music and vocals.
- Christian message – presents a Christian perspective and message with ministry effectiveness in mind.
- Originality – use of original and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.

Communication

- Clear concept – understandable concept of lyrical message.
- Expression – facial expression and body language that reflect the tone and intent of the lyrics.
- Interpretation – overall effectiveness/impact of the message.
- Stage presence – command of stage and/or instrument; control, confidence and comfort.
- Vocal clarity – enunciation of words, projecting with the correct, clear inflection and control appropriate for the presentation.

Presentation/Technique

- Control – maintaining quality sound with appropriate volume.
- Creativity – unique physical response to rhythm and rhyme.
- Energy – demonstrates the emotion with exaggerated energy for the lyrics.
- Motions – hand and arm gestures that enhance the performance.
- Phrasing – employs creative and innovative wording rather than trite or cliché.
- Precision/stability – lyrics, motions and music compliment each other.
- Synchronization – multiple vocalists' gestures or movements in proper rhythm with each other and the music (ensemble).
- Timing – allows for lyrical delivery and audience response.

Effectiveness

- Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
- Memorization – strong knowledge of the lyrics and melody of the song(s).
- Preparation – an apparent effort of thought and time in preparation.
- Understandable concept – the combination of music selection, communication, presentation/technique, and effectiveness in attaining a response.

VOCAL DIVISION

SONGWRITING

Selection

- Appropriate – appropriate for this festival; appropriate level of difficulty.
- Arrangement – well-rounded, cohesive musical statement.
- Christian message – presents a Christian perspective and message with ministry effectiveness in mind.
- Originality – original in its concept, lyrics, and melody; demonstrates a fresh approach.

Communication

- Clear message – reveals a message that is clearly understood by the listener.
- Lyrical hook – composed around a lyrical concept/phrase that is restated or woven throughout the selection.
- Rhyme scheme – follows a rhyme scheme that is unique in its wording.
- Use of poetic language – employs poetic language, such as similes and metaphors.
- Unique wording and arrangement – a unique arrangement that is not trite or mundane.

Presentation/Technique

- Clear theme – overall concept and melodic motif clearly developed.
- Contrast/variation – variations and contrasts in the harmonic structure and the melodic line.
- Harmonic structure – the harmonic structure of the song must follow acceptable musical practice and should be enriched beyond the primary chords of I, IV, and V.
- Introduction/song length – an introduction that sets the mood of the song; a song that is not too long or too short.
- Memorable tune – melody is memorable and singable.
- Melodic development – variations in the melody after being stated in its initial form.
- Phrasing – melodic and lyrical phrasing follows the concept of the song.
- Song form – structure of the composition is in “song” form (for example, introduction, verse, chorus, verse, chorus, bridge, modulation into chorus, coda/tag).
- Time frame/development – develops of the overall harmonic structure that fits into a proportional time frame where one section is not emphasized to the detriment of another section.
- Use of figurative language – creative and effective use of descriptive words, creates a “mental picture.”

Effectiveness

- Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
- Interpretation of clear thought – consistent interpretation of the musical style and lyrical line throughout the song.
- Relevance – music and lyrics are in a style and form that connects with the listener.
- Understandable concept – the combination of music selection, communication, presentation/technique and effectiveness attaining a response.

VOCAL DIVISION

VOCAL SOLO

Selection

- Appropriate – appropriate for this festival; appropriate level of difficulty.
- Arrangement – well-rounded, cohesive musical statement.
- Christian message – presents a Christian perspective and message with ministry effectiveness in mind.
- Display of vocal range – demonstrates a wide vocal range.

Communication

- Communicative skill – ability to connect with audience.
- Expressiveness – both facial expression and use of body language.
- Posture – relaxed body stance for proper breath support and management.
- Stage presence – command of stage; control, confidence and comfort.

Presentation/Technique

- Articulation – executes articulate phrases (i.e. 'staccato' – short, 'marcato' – marked, and 'legato' – connected).
- Breathing – proper breath management.
- Diction – proper enunciation of words.
- Dynamics – effective use of contrasting volumes.
- Intonation – ability to sing in tune.
- Phrasing – completeness of a lyrical statement.
- Rhythmic precision – ability to internalize the pulse.
- Tone quality – ability to produce clear and pleasant tone.

Effectiveness

- Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
- Memorization – strong knowledge of the lyrics and melody of the song(s).
- Preparation – an apparent effort of thought and time in preparing the selection.
- Understandable concept – the combination of music selection, communication, presentation/technique and effectiveness in attaining a response.

VOCAL DIVISION

VOCAL ENSEMBLE/CHOIR

Selection

- Appropriate – appropriate for this festival; appropriate level of difficulty.
- Arrangement – well-rounded, cohesive musical statement.
- Christian message – presents a Christian perspective and message with ministry effectiveness in mind.
- Display of vocal range – demonstrates a wide vocal range.

Communication

- Communicative skill – ability to connect with audience.
- Expressiveness – both facial expression and use of body language.
- Posture – relaxed body stance for proper breath support and management.
- Stage presence – command of stage; control, confidence and comfort.
- Unity – demonstrates ensemble cohesiveness.

Presentation/Technique

- Articulation – executes articulate phrases (i.e. 'staccato' – short, 'marcato' – marked, and 'legato' – connected).
- Breathing – proper breath management.
- Blend – creating a balanced sound.
- Diction – proper enunciation of words.
- Dynamics – effective use of contrasting volumes.
- Intonation – ability to sing in tune.
- Phrasing – completeness of a lyrical statement.
- Rhythmic precision – ability to internalize the pulse.
- Tone quality – ability to produce clear and pleasant tone.

Effectiveness

- Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
- Memorization – strong knowledge of the lyrics and melody of the song(s).
- Preparation – an apparent effort of thought and time in preparing the selection.
- Understandable concept – the combination of music selection, communication, presentation/technique and effectiveness in attaining a response.

VOCAL DIVISION

WORSHIP TEAM

Selection

- Appropriate – appropriate for this festival; appropriate level of difficulty.
- Arrangement – well-rounded, cohesive musical statement.
- Christian message – presents a Christian perspective and message with ministry effectiveness in mind.
- Musical transitions – thoughtful flow of music; theme unity (holiness, the cross, etc.); smooth flow from one song to the next.
- Originality – use of original and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.

Communication

- Communicative skill – interprets the overall musical intent (i.e. emotion, energy, musical line, personal involvement/connectivity to theme of arrangement).
- Expressiveness – both facial expression and use of body language to lead in worship.
- Posture – relaxed body stance for proper breath control.
- Stage presence – command of stage and/or instrument; control, confidence and comfort.
- Unity – cohesiveness of vocalists and instrumentalists.
- Worshipful lyrics – appropriate lyrics for application of audience; avoiding trite expressions.

Presentation/Technique

- Articulation – executes articulate phrases (i.e. 'staccato' – short, 'marcato' – marked, and 'legato' – connected).
- Breathing – proper breath management.
- Blend – creates a balanced sound.
- Diction – proper enunciation of words.
- Dynamics – effective use of contrasting volumes.
- Energy – demonstrates vitality appropriate for the selection(s).
- Intonation – ability to sing in tune.
- Phrasing – completeness of a musical statement.
- Rhythmic precision – ability to internalize the pulse.
- Tone quality – ability to produce clear and pleasant tone.

Effectiveness

- Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion; able to draw a worshipful response.
- Memorization – strong knowledge of the lyrics and melody of the song(s).
- Preparation – an apparent effort of thought and time in preparation.
- Understandable concept – the combination of music selection, communication, presentation/technique and effectiveness in attaining a response.

WRITING DIVISION

BOOK CHAPTER

Selection

- Appropriate – appropriate for this festival; appropriate level of difficulty.
- Christian message – presents a Christian perspective.
- Originality – unique use of original and creative ideas; demonstration of a fresh approach.
- Style – keeps within genre.
- Title selection – Interesting or arresting title.

Communication

- Development – strong incorporation of key components (plot, character development, and conflict).
- Flow of thought – connected ideas and flow.
- Freshness of expression – avoidance of clichés; creating fresh and vivid imagery.
- Use of language – proper usage and easily understood components of the English language.

Presentation

- Grammar – correct verb tenses, usage of pronouns, etc.
- Mechanics/spelling – correct word spelling.
- Punctuation – correct use of commas, semi-colons, apostrophes, etc.
- Sentence structure – proper placement of phrases and words.
- Transitional elements – consistent flow of topics from paragraph to paragraph.
- Unique wording – excellent word selection; avoidance of repetitive or common vocabulary.
- Visual elements – coversheet, spacing, margins, and word count.

Effectiveness

- Effectiveness – overall ability of the writer/chapter to capture interest and impact the reader.
- Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
- Preparation – an apparent effort of time and thought in preparing the piece.
- Understandable concept – combination of the selection, communication, presentation/technique, and effectiveness in attaining a response.

WRITING DIVISION

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Selection

- Appropriate – appropriate for this festival; appropriate level of difficulty; age-appropriate approach.
- Christian message – presents a Christian perspective and message.
- Originality – unique use of original and creative ideas; demonstration of a fresh approach.
- Style – keeps within genre.
- Title selection – Interesting or arresting title.

Communication

- Development – strong incorporation of key components (plot, character development, conflict and resolution).
- Flow of thought – ideas connecting from the beginning to the end of the piece.
- Freshness of expression – avoidance of clichés; creating fresh and vivid imagery.
- Use of language – age appropriateness; proper usage and easily understood components of the English language.

Presentation

- Consistency – consistent use of medium.
- Flow – a natural flow of story and images.
- Grammar – correct verb tenses, usage of pronouns, etc.
- Mechanics/spelling – correct word spelling.
- Punctuation – correct use of commas, semi-colons, apostrophes, etc.
- Sentence structure – proper placement of phrases and words.
- Unique wording – excellent word selection; avoidance of repetitive or common vocabulary.
- Use of Illustrations – excellent development and use of age-appropriate illustrations.
- Visual elements – coversheet, illustrations, spacing and/or other creative age-appropriate enhancements.
- Visual impact – illustration imagery that is visually compelling; neatness.

Effectiveness

- Effectiveness – overall impact.
- Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
- Preparation – an apparent effort of time and thought in preparing the piece.
- Understandable concept – combination of the selection, communication, presentation/technique, and effectiveness in attaining a response.

WRITING DIVISION

FIRST PERSON ESSAY, POETRY AND SHORT STORY

Selection

- Appropriate – appropriate for this festival; appropriate level of difficulty.
- Originality – unique use of original and creative ideas; demonstration of a fresh approach.
- Style – keeps within genre (nonfiction, written in first person).
- Theme development – annual theme clearly and creatively woven throughout presentation.

Communication

- Flow of thought – ideas connecting from the beginning to the end of the piece.
- Freshness of expression – avoidance of clichés – creating fresh and vivid imagery.
- Title selection – definite reflection of the tone and message of the essay.
- Unique wording – excellent word selection; avoidance of repetitive or common vocabulary.
- Use of language – proper usage and easily understood components of the English language.

Presentation

- Development – strong incorporation of key components (conflict, plot, and resolution involving speaker).
- Grammar – correct verb tenses, usage of pronouns, etc.
- Mechanics/spelling – correct word spelling.
- Punctuation – correct use of commas, semi-colons, apostrophes, etc.
- Sentence structure – proper placement of phrases and words.
- Transitional elements – consistent flow of topics from paragraph to paragraph.
- Visual elements – coversheet, spacing, margins, and word count.

Effectiveness

- Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
- Interpretation – overall conveyance of writer's theme-related idea.
- Preparation – an apparent effort of time and thought in preparing the piece.
- Understandable concept – combination of the selection, communication, presentation/technique and effectiveness in attaining a response.

WRITING DIVISION

SCRIPT WRITING

Selection

- Appropriate – appropriate for this festival; appropriate level of difficulty.
- Originality – unique use of original and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.
- Title selection – Interesting or arresting title.
- Theme development – annual theme clearly and creatively woven throughout presentation.

Communication

- Flow of thought – ideas connected from the beginning to the end of the piece.
- Freshness of expression – avoidance of clichés – creates fresh and vivid imagery.
- Unique wording – excellent word selection; avoidance of repetitive or common vocabulary.
- Use of language – proper usage and easily understood components of the English language.

Presentation

- Action – the intended movement is both original and creative and enhances the idea of the presentation.
- Blocking – concise and helpful stage directions; indication of proper staging principles; movement with purpose.
- Characterization – believable representation of characters; demonstration of a realistic connection to one another.
- Development – incorporates key components (plot and character development, conflict and resolution).
- Dialogue – believability of lines.
- Sentence structure/grammar/mechanics– proper placement of phrases and words; correct verb tenses, usage of pronouns, etc.
- Timing/delivery – demonstrates an understanding of the pacing of a scene; timing that develops the appropriate mood and tone of the scene.

Effectiveness

- Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
- Interpretation – overall conveyance of writer's theme-related idea.
- Preparation – an apparent effort of time and thought in preparing the piece.
- Understandable concept – combination of the selection, communication, presentation/technique and effectiveness in attaining a response.