

## Performance Hints

### Choosing a performance

- Do you enjoy acting?
- Are you creative?
- Does your topic have controversy or conflict?
- Does your topic involve interesting characters or events?
- Are you ready for challenging, but fun work?

### Topic Selection

- Choose a topic that complies with this year's theme.
- Choose a topic with controversy and/or conflict.
- Choose a topic that interests you or has a personal connection.
- Choose a topic that would have good primary sources.
- Choose a topic that might earn special awards.

### Script Creation Process

- Writing
  - Research your topic and continue to research throughout the writing and competition process
  - Create a thesis statement and supporting details
  - Decide your format for writing.
  - When writing, don't worry about the time limit. Get your ideas down on paper.
  - Type different characters in different colored fonts.
- Revisions
  - Read the script aloud and time it.
  - Cut the script to the time limit by combining ideas, cutting excess. Look for a more concise way to express your idea.
  - Find someone to critique your program and listen objectively to suggestions. BUT, keep your voice.
  - Revise and edit again.
  - Revise and edit again, and again. . .

### Practice

- Practice, practice, practice!!
- Listen to constructive criticism. Adjust when appropriate.
- Practice with a stopwatch.
- Practice for whomever, wherever, whenever for however long.

## **Sets/Props**

- Keep them simple.
- Handmade sets are good.
- Try to represent historical accuracy. This is part of your research.
- Make them portable, easy to assemble, and easy to set up.
- They should contribute to your performance.

## **Costuming**

- You can make, buy, rent, or borrow your costume(s).
- Make them as historically accurate as possible. This is part of your research.
- Costumes should add to your character.
- Costume changes should be quick, simple, and should not detract from your performance.

## **Judges**

- When entering the room:
  - Hand the judges your paperwork. (Do not include the script.)  
Have 4 copies—1 for each judge and 1 extra.
  - You have 5 minutes to set up your sets and props. You must bring in the sets and props from the door by yourself. You may use a cart or dolly. You must set them up by yourself.
  - When finished setting up, wait for the judges to tell you they are ready.
- Be polite.
- Introduce yourself and state the title of your performance. This is NOT part of the 10-minute performance time.
- Perform and have a good time.
- After your performance, the judges will let you know if you should remove sets/props first or answer questions.
- When answering questions, be sure you understand the question.
- At the end of your performance, shake their hands and thank them for judging.
- Do not be afraid of them. They are there to help you.
- Take their criticisms seriously.
- Stay calm and confident.
- When you take down sets/props, you have 5 minutes. You must get the set/props out of the room on your own.

