TFA Speech

Manual of Policy and Procedures

### **Academics**

You are expected to maintain passing grades during the run of the competition season. As a department we follow UIL rules therefore we must follow all rules that entails. Meaning: if you are not passing then you will not be able to compete/travel. In this environment you are a part of a team, it is not fair to your other teammates if you cannot pass. Therefore, if this is a persistent problem you will have to be removed until all grades are sufficient. Pay attention in class, use your time wisely, and get help when you need it. No one is perfect, but we all can be responsible and a good advocate for ourselves. In short: PASS YOUR CLASSES!!!!!

### **Absences**

When competing you will be pulled from class in order to travel and participate in tournaments. It is your responsibility to make up for any work missed in a timely manner. While this is an approved absence it is not an excuse to fall behind. Your behavior and work ethic in your other classes reflects on the TWHS Theatre Department as a whole. Be smart and plan accordingly.

Absences from tournaments you have signed up to participate in are not permitted. There are deadlines for each competition that penalize financially if any alterations to the team are made. We as a department are footing the bill for each individual entry per competition. **We are not able to cover additional costs due to an absence/no show entry. If this happens you will be responsible/charged for both the cost of entry and cost of penalty drop fee.** You may also be removed from the team. If an emergency arises please contact the Director traveling with you immediately.

### **TFA Callboard**

There is a digital version of the Callboard for TFA Speech. All team members must be active members of the GroupMe app. Our Group Callboard is called “Speech!”

* If you have not been added please see any of the Acting Directors (Collins, Dupuis, Peters).
* It is your responsibility to pay attention to all announcements. **An announcement from a Director in this format is considered you receiving the information.** There will be no excuse for you not knowing what has been communicated via GroupMe.
* In the event a specific group is added for the duration of a specific tournament you are responsible for that communication as well as the main Speech board.
* Signups for each tournament will be sent out in the GroupMe two weeks prior to the opening date of the tournament. The deadline to signup will close one week prior to the opening of said tournament. Add/Drops cannot happen after the signup closes.
* All schedule and travel information will be sent out at the beginning of each tournament week. If it is not out on the Monday prior to the tournament it is due to communication from the Host School. In the event this occurs we will release information as soon as the hosting school sends the schedule.
* It is likely the Host School will alter the schedule throughout the week. Any schedule alterations/notices will be sent via GroupMe. Please be sure to check it a few times daily. There is absolutely no excuse for not knowing any and all information throughout the season.

### **Director Rehearsals**

All competitors should seek out rehearsal with the Directors throughout the season. One on one rehearsals are offered with all three Acting Directors Monday-Friday from 3:00-5:00 on the Senior Campus. To sign up for a rehearsal visit [www.twhstheater.com](http://www.twhstheater.com) and look under the “get involved tab”. Sign ups close by 1pm each day.

* + - Plan ahead and sign up for your rehearsal time by the Sunday prior to your rehearsal
    - All time changes or last minute signups must happen before 1pm the day of the rehearsal. *It is courteous to notify the director if done on the same day.*
    - If you have an emergency and will be late or miss your rehearsal, please notify the Director you are meeting immediately.
    - Be on time for your session. The director will let you into the meeting when your time arrives.
    - Warm up before you enter the room
    - Be as memorized as possible
    - Be prepared to work
    - Be willing to think outside the box
    - If you have a specific area you would like worked tell the director (blocking, intro, character etc)

### **Competition Protocol**

TRAVEL

Season Tournaments occur on Fridays and Saturdays. Expect to attend the entirety of both days. Fridays will begin during the school day. Classes missed will be determined by distance from the tournament site. It is common to not return to campus until after 11pm. Saturdays begin nice and early. We often meet prior to 6:30am and do not return until after 11pm. All students ride to and from the tournament together on the bus even if they do not break to semi or finals. In the event of an exception where a parent needs to pick up a student early the student must be transferred to the parent by the director. If a director is in a judging session the student must wait until the director is available. Students must have an updated travel card on file in order to travel. [CLICK HERE FOR A PRINT OUT OF THE TRAVEL CARD](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1V76kIjQwbDbMYj5v9-3-9g_El0EtWQEn/view?usp=sharing)

Dress Code

* Suits are the standard
* Skirts can be worn however pants are more suitable and not as restricting for movement
* Black dress shoes - Flats are recommended.
* If in a duet coordinating shirts is recommended
* Less is more - no loud or over accessorizing

Tournament Structure

* Create an account on [www.tabroom.com](http://www.tabroom.com) and make sure to link to The Woodlands High School. \ room information, semi/ final breaks and ballots will be sent out through this account from TFA.
* Some tournaments still post a paper version of room assignments and breaks. These will be posted around the cafeteria if the host school still does this.
* Find a space to warm up and rehearse. Make sure it is out of the way and not heard in a competition room. Never walk in cold!
* Be 10-15 minutes early to your room
* Do not enter until the judge is present. If you do prior to their presence you can be disqualified.
* Write your last name, title of piece and author on the whiteboard next to your assigned number placement.
* If you are cross entered write “XE” after the author.
* Some judges will check you in on their computer instead. Give all the above information to them in that instance.
* Phones are not allowed while performing. Leave them at your chair and make sure they are turned off. No filming or checking phones while in a room.
* You must stay the entire round unless you are cross entered.
* Do not talk. Be respectful. Audience etiquette is looked at by judges
* On your turn. Before you perform: check that the judges are ready. Ask for 2 down? Fist at grace, verbal stop if necessary. This will allow you to adjust and not go over time.
* Say thank you when you are done.
* If you do not have a round you are allowed to go watch an event. Follow appropriate audience etiquette always.

PACKING LIST

Homework

Change of comfy clothes

Charger

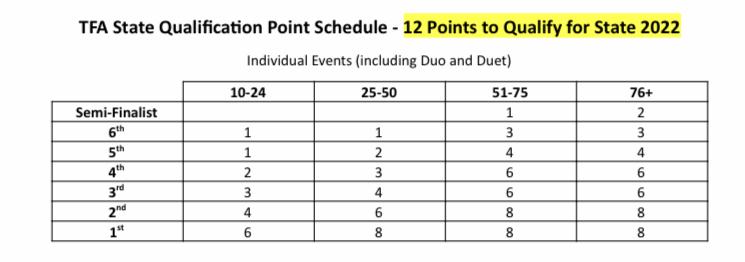
Power Strip

Snacks/food

Water bottle

Money for concessions/dinner

### **Point System**



*2023 = 10 points to qualify! State information will be released in January. State tournament is held in March and is an extended overnight trip.*

### **Upcoming Tournaments 22/23**

*September 1 - 2 - College Park HS*

*September 8 - 9 - Foster Swing*

*October 6 - 7 - Dulles HS*

*October 27 - 28 - Cy Lakes Swing*

*November 3 - 4 - Grand Oaks HS*

*December 1 - 2 - Kingwood HS*

*January 12 - 13 - Cy Falls HS*

*January 19 - 20 - Clear Creek HS*

*February 2 - 3 - Langham Creek HS*

*​February 9 - 10 - Cy Park Swing*

### **Performance Piece breakdown**

* + - Teaser Section - THE HOOK.
      * The section of the original text that pulls the audience into the piece.
      * You are establishing yourself as the character(s).
      * Establish the given circumstances.
      * Try to make it no longer than a minute.
    - Intro. - a section of the piece ***you write yourself.***
      * Can clarify the given circumstances
      * It tells us the importance/value of the work.
      * It should be personal, and show your personality, (different from the character you are portraying.)
      * You must state the title of the work, and the author.
    - Program Bulk - the sections of the original text that tells the remainder of the story best.
      * Remaining minutes of time.
        + When acted : 10 minutes total with a 30 second grace period.
        + Structural Components Structure of an Interp (taken from Interpretation of Literature, Bringing Words to Life).
        + TEASER • 0:00 – 1:30 Performance mark. Previews the topic and mood of the selection (Anything over a minute can get a bit too long)
        + INTRO • 1:30 – 3:00 Performance mark. Explains the purpose of the performance EXPOSITION • 3:00 – 3:30 Introduces characters and setting
        + INCITING INCIDENT • 3:30 – 4:00 Performance mark. Sends the conflict into motion
        + RISING ACTION • 4:00 – 7:30 Performance mark. Complicates the conflict
        + CLIMAX • 7:30 – 8:30 Performance mark. Emotional peak of the performance
        + FALLING ACTION • 8:30 – 9:30 Performance mark. Resolves the conflict
    - Remember your piece must
      * Be from a published piece and can obtain original copy
      * Can add 100 transitional words (not sentences)
      * Possess literary merit
      * Showcase your strengths as a performer
      * Cannot have props or costumes
      * Chairs only allowed in Duo/Duet

### **TFA COMMITMENT AGREEMENT**

This is not my show or your show, this is our show. We are a team working to have the best show possible. Please respect your fellow actors and technicians throughout this process. We are all working very hard to make this the most successful show possible so please work together in a professional manner. If there are any problems, please talk to your SM (McKenna C) and they will try and resolve the issue. If they cannot fix the issue, or you do not feel comfortable talking to her about the issue, please see the Directors after rehearsal to discuss the matter.

I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ fully understand the information that is in this production packet. I will be a responsible and courteous member to all involved in TFA Speech. I will also strive to pass my classes in accordance with department and UIL rules. If for any reason I cannot fulfill these standards I will let the Director know as soon as possible. Failure to follow any rules or procedures in this packet might be grounds for my removal from the tournament team.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ fully understand the information in this production packet along with the expectations and level of commitment needed from my child. I understand final approval of a conflict is at the discretion of the Directors. I understand in accordance to UIL and Department policy my child could be removed from the competition team due to academic performance, absences and/or not meeting expectations of the TFA process.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature