Duet Improvisation

**Description of Event:** Duet Improvisation is an improvised acting exercise composed of two students who portray an original scene created after drawing prewritten suggestions. The scene should clearly include two characters, a situation or problem and a solution to the conflict.

**Rules:**

1. The performed scene should last between 1-3 minutes.

2. Each actor may portray only one character throughout the performance.

3. All dialogue must be the original work of the contestants.

4. No stage props or costumes should be used with the exception of two chairs (or desks).

5. Contestant(s) will draw their suggestion(s) for their scene as indicated below. Students are not to “pre-plan” with their partner prior to starting the scene.

* Meet #1- Situations: Each performer will draw one situation suggestion, then quickly choose 1 of those to use as the basis of their improvisation. **Performers SHOULD NOT pre-plan the scene.**
* Meet #2- Characters: Each performer will draw one character suggestion to use as the basis of their improvisation. **Performers SHOULD NOT confer with each other prior to starting the scene.**
* Meet #3- Lines: Each performer will draw 1 pre-written line (2 lines per team)prior to beginning their improvisation, but SHOULD NOT LOOK AT IT. As the scene progresses, each must incorporate their line into the scene.

* Finals- All 3 above styles of improv are in play. Each team will randomly select their “inspiration” which will be situation-based, character-based or lines, with the same format/rules applying from earlier in the year.

**Criteria for Judging:**

1. Delivery: Do the performers use appropriate physical and vocal techniques to enhance the effectiveness of the performance?

2. Characterization: Are the characters clear? Do they support the situation and performance as a whole?

3. Teamwork and Improvisation: Are the two actors able to make choices quickly and work together as an effective team? Does the scene flow logically and work as a whole? CISL\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DUET IMPROVISATION TIME:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Room\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Round\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ LIMIT: 1-3 minutes

School Code\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Student 1\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Student 2\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Situation Chosen\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Title of Scene\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

INTRODUCTION/PREPARATION

* Collaboration/preparation should be minimal – see rules page for each specific type of improv
* Intro includes only the performers names
* Intro may be spoken by either performer, or shared

DELIVERY (Used appropriate techniques to enhance the effectiveness of the performance)

* Vocal expression is appropriate to a young audience
* Speaker makes effective use of eye contact and facial expression
* Speaker makes effective use of gestures and bodily action
* Speaker’s variety in pitch, rate, volume and tone contributes to the effectiveness of the piece
* Stage movement/blocking are motivated, natural and appropriate to the scene

CHARACTERIZATION (Are clearly performed to support the meaning of the story)

* Emotional and intellectual elements of characters are convincingly presented
* Actions, gestures, and facial expressions are appropriate
* Characters a believable

TEAMWORK AND IMPROVISATION (Performed in a way that shows collaboration and fresh ideas)

* Performers quickly made effective choices and performed them clearly as a team
* Performers were able to follow through with choices made to create a unified scene
* Tempo enhances the meaning of the scene
* Actors relate well to each other and to the audience

POOR BELOW AVERAGE GOOD EXCELLENT OUTSTANDING

1-8 9-14 15-19 20-22 23-25

Score\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Time/Criteria Violations (-2)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Final Score\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Judge Code\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Ranking\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_