



# Effective Ballot Writing

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# Pedagogy of Evaluation

- Specific evaluation criteria/outcomes
- Constructive criticism:  
improve and reinforce
- Reason for decision/rank/rating
  - Key criterion/standard used in round
- Purposeful tactics vs. gimmicks

# Considerations

- Some adjudicators get caught up in technicalities of rules (“is prosthetic leg a prop in informative speaking?”)
- Best practice: contest committee, not adjudicators

# What to Look For

- Drawn in by...
- Distracted, pulled away by...
- Finish/Polish: developing, missing elements, or progressing, or accomplished?

# Content

- You assume audience knowledge on how humans are classified among animals, as articulated by opposition.
- Characterization lacks depth: no change, conflict, or relationship. This made it difficult to rate within the round.

# Content

- Cutting missed key elements to build plot and motivation for characters.
- Make organizational structure clearer with signposts/transitions.
- In introduction, describe significance of this piece to social issues today.

# Vocal Delivery

- Had trouble understanding \_\_\_\_\_; enunciate consonants clearly
- Emphasize important points by slowing down and pausing
- Distinguish \_\_\_\_\_ characters by clearer difference in pitch

# Emotions

- Identify subtext of each line to bring more nuance to performance, e.g., how would Solider react to death?
- Do not confuse intensity and anger. Softer, more solemn delivery can be more memorable.

# Physicality

- Look at individual audience members; don't simply "scan" room
- Move as a transition, don't just pace the room; this helps us follow better
- When you play with your buttons, it distracts from your content

# Justification

- Debate boiled down to economic impact, and the Con team better explained trends and implications.
- Poetry is about artistry of language; higher ranked speakers conveyed better rhythm, pause, and emotion.

# Avoid Generalizations:

⊘ Good

⊘ Bad / Weak / Poor

⊘ Needs work / work on \_\_\_\_\_

⊘ Practice \_\_\_\_\_

⊘ Tough round



## Descriptive Words/Phrases for Adjudicators

By Adam Jacobi

# Resources

- Training course examples:
  - Effective
  - Ineffective
- Word bank →

### Content

layered meaning  
evoke emotion  
thought provoking  
persuasive arguments  
credible evidence  
balanced perspective  
timely source  
coherent  
cohesive  
nuanced  
dynamic  
cutting  
defined central narrative  
compelling plot  
range  
clever  
combination  
compilation  
unified  
convincing  
proficient  
mastered  
insightful  
wealth

### Effective Presentation

effective tactic(s)  
executed thoughtfully  
drew me in  
expressive  
articulate  
believable  
characterized  
credible performance  
committed character  
energetic  
lively  
animated  
honest  
genuine  
realistic  
authentic  
natural  
understated  
whimsical  
rhetorical  
passion  
vivacious  
vigor  
intimate

### Developing/Improving

artificial  
awkward  
broad / vague  
faulty  
flawed  
hindered  
incoherent  
misguided  
monotonous  
repetitive  
scarce  
absent  
incomplete  
lacks  
reassess structure  
requires  
potential  
pulled me out  
distracted  
gimmicky  
gratuitous  
incongruous  
reevaluate motives  
identify purpose

**Avoid:** good • great • weak • needs work • practice more