

Coaching Style

Brainstorming:

- ☐ Make the Long Term theme into a spontaneous problem
 - ⇒ Record their discussions (have a secretary or try tape-recording)
- ☐ Assign research assignments to find new angles and ideas
- ☐ Instead of asking the students to identify what is creative, ask them to list what they think other teams would do – what have they seen before or what is the first thing that comes to mind when thinking about a certain theme, thereby illustrating what they should avoid doing.
 - ⇒ If they are a hung up on an idea that would be considered common, ask them how they might modify that idea to make it their own.
 - ⇒ Sometimes it's "not what you, it's how you say it!"
- ☐ Have the team identify each team member's strengths and weaknesses. Teach them how to capitalize on their abilities. What are their talents?
- ☐ Ask them to assess their audience – attention span, knowledge of the topic, and how to avoid inside jokes.
- ☐ No offensive material
- ☐ Encourage the use of humor
 - ⇒ Exaggeration vs. Understatement
 - ⇒ Literal vs. Metaphor/Symbolism
- ☐ Creative use of materials
 - ⇒ There are numerous benefits to using recycled materials

Organization:

- ☐ Keep a team notebook to record ideas, keep copies of scripts, schedules, research, the problem, clarifications, forms, & receipts.
 - ⇒ Write everything out first! Make diagrams, lists of materials, & models.

Clarifications:

- ☐ Risky can often be the most creative, HOWEVER, always get clarifications!!!
- ☐ The team should know the problem better than the judges.

The Style Form:

- ☐ Be concise, but descriptive of your elements.
- ☐ Do not use items twice or use anything already scored in the long term categories
- ☐ Items can be small or large, tangible or intangible. Presenting a certain angle can sometimes guarantee creative scoring.
- ☐ Have the student with the best written communication draft this document.
- ☐ Use the computer to type this form (Be careful not to modify the form – e.g. font size of the original document or size of allotted spaces)

Problem Solution & Style Presentation:

- ☐ Break down the 8 minutes – understanding how much time should be designated for setup, movement, transitions, and contingency plans.
- ☐ Know the limitations of the 8 minutes – create a performance that is easy for the judges to follow.
 - ⇒ Have a performance that can keep the audience engaged (Visual & Auditory)
- ☐ PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE!!!
 - ⇒ Teach your team about stage presence and creating a polished look

Competition Day:

- ☐ The team has an opportunity to brag after their performance, but only for a few minutes.
 - ⇒ Make sure each member knows who came up with certain ideas, who built the props or costumes, and how they were constructed.
 - ⇒ The team should explain how something is exceptional or how much time was devoted to its construction. The judges won't know unless a member of the team informs the judges