

The Speech and Theatre  
Association of NJ, Inc.

Organization Guide and  
Annual Competition  
Official Rule Book

# The Speech and Theatre Association Of New Jersey, Inc. Official Rule Book

## The Organization

STANJ, Inc. is New Jersey's professional organization for speech and theatre.

The organization includes members from elementary, high school, college and professional theatre, who are interested in acting, directing, forensics, musical theatre and technical theatre.

The membership includes teachers from NJ high schools, the eight state colleges and a number of professional organizations.

STANJ is the voice of advocacy for the inclusion of speech and theatre arts in the educational curricula.

## The Purposes

To promote excellence in the study and teaching of communication and theatre arts.

To encourage study and scholarship in the arts.

To recognize, develop and promote the importance of teacher certification in speech and theatre.

To encourage innovative methods of teaching speech and theatre.

To provide support and resources through arts activities, conferences, conventions and other STANJ events.

To serve as a link with other professional arts organizations.

To implement state and national advocacy strategies.

## The Benefits Include

Two annual teacher conferences.

Participation in statewide competitions of scenes, monologues and improvisations.

Recognition of outstanding students and teachers through Governor's Awards in Arts Education.

Networking with elementary, high school and college teachers and professionals involved in speech and theatre.

Workshops and showcases at the NJEA convention.

## Affiliations

New Jersey Education Association (NJEA)

American Alliance for Theatre and Education (AATE)

## Membership

Membership is open to all individuals and organizations interested in any aspect of speech and theatre, either educational or professional. The organizational membership fee entitles an individual to receive:

- Informational mailings
- A calendar
- Notification of competitions, conferences and workshops

## Governor's Awards

### OUTSTANDING TEACHER AWARD

The Alliance for Arts Education sponsors the prestigious Governor's Awards for Arts in Education. The Outstanding New Jersey Teacher of Speech and Theatre award is co-sponsored with the Speech and Theatre Association of New Jersey. You may make a self-nomination, or nominate another worthy teacher.

#### CRITERIA

1. The nominee must be a member of STANJ
2. The nominee must have a minimum of three recommendations, including 1 from an administrator/teacher, 1 from a student/parents.
3. The nominee must file by the January 31<sup>st</sup> deadline.
4. The nominee must prepare a portfolio of their work.

### DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

If you know of an administrator, supervisor or community person who has helped develop your program, or has helped support the arts for students throughout the state, you can nominate him or her for the Distinguished Service Award sponsored by the Alliance for Arts Education and the Speech and Theatre Association of New Jersey.

#### CRITERIA

1. The nominee must have demonstrated exceptional service to the arts.
2. The nominee has been active in supporting speech education and/or arts programs.
3. The nominee has been a resource for teachers of Speech and Theatre.

Others who could qualify for the award are: college educators, corporate individuals, school administrators, supervisors, and anyone who supports theatre programs.

### EXCELLENCE IN ARTS ADMINISTRATION AWARD

The Alliance for Arts Education sponsors the prestigious Governor's Awards for Arts in Education. The Excellence in Arts Administration Award is co-sponsored with the Speech and Theatre Association of New Jersey. STANJ is committed to providing active support for exceptional administrators who help make our programs possible. Educators, please nominate a school administrator who you feel has really supported your theatre or

speech program and who holistically sees the value in arts education. This administrator should exemplify the best in their profession. Someone who continues to find ways to improve arts and speech education and who always gives him or herself beyond what is expected of them; someone who demonstrates “Service Above Self” for their school.

### CRITERIA

1. The Nominee must be recommended by a member of STANJ, accompanied by support materials that **may** include: A resume, newspaper articles, videos, pictures, and letters of recommendation from educators, students, colleagues, or any other pertinent materials that provide an accurate picture of the candidate.
2. The nominee must file by the January 31 deadline.

### ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The organization consists of its members, governed by an Executive Board. Included on the Executive Board are the organization’s six elected officers. **(7 including past president)** The remainder of the board consists of **(up to 9)** members-at-large. The election is held at the annual STANJ Teacher’s Conference in the fall each year. The president is empowered to appoint members to finish out the year, in the event of a resignation or other cause of office vacancy.

Membership in STANJ begins November 1, (or as soon thereafter as the membership application and fee is received and proceeded) and ends on October 31.

### THE OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

President: serves for one year following one year service as President-Elect. Presides over business meetings of Executive Board and Executive Committee. Appoints committees; delegates responsibilities, represents STANJ to other organizations.

President-Elect: Assists President and performs President’s duties in the event of the president’s absence or disability; plans annual Student Conference and other duties as assigned by the President. The President-Elect serves for one year then assumes the office of President.

Vice-President: Maintains an active membership list and distributes membership information to members; conducts membership campaigns as determined by the Executive Board; performs other duties as assigned by the President.

Recording Secretary: Serves as secretary to the Executive Board; notifies members of special annual meetings, and records and keeps the proceedings thereof; circulates the minutes of official proceedings to the Executive Board and the STANJ membership as appropriate or as directed by the President.

Treasurer: Collects and maintains custody of STANJ funds; keeps full and accurate records of receipts and expenditures; deposits all monies and assets in the name

of and to the credit of STANJ; disburses such funds for expenses authorized by the Executive Board; reports on the organization's financial status at the annual business meeting.

Corresponding Secretary: Serves as Corresponding Secretary to the Executive Board, sends out letters when requested by the President, and maintains a folder of all hard-copy or electronic letters, requests, questions or complaints.

Member-at-Large: Attends regularly scheduled Board meetings, and assists the organization with execution of STANJ events.

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## STUDENT THEATRE COMPETITION GENERAL RULES

### SUPERVISION

The contest is governed by the Executive Board of the Speech and Theatre Association of New Jersey.

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS OF CONTESTANTS

1. All contestants must be residents of New Jersey
2. All contestants must be sponsored by a STANJ teacher-member in good standing.
3. Schools must pay for all slots they have registered for, by the published deadline.
4. All students will be amateurs.

### \*\*IMPORTANT

Any contestant or teacher guilty of infraction of any rules, in part or whole, regarding contestant's eligibility requirements, will be disqualified.

### AGE LIMIT

Contestants who are enrolled in a New Jersey school, grades 7 – 12 are eligible to enter in any category.

### AMATEUR/PROFESSIONAL

Amateur – One who does not earn a living from performing or teaching theatre and/or is not a member of Actor's Equity, SAG or any other acting union.

Professional – One who earns compensation to act, from performing or teaching theatre, film, television, digital video, etc. and/or is a member of professional unions such as SAG or Actor's Equity. Professionals who have been paid for work within the last three years are not permitted to compete in the adjudicated categories of the STANJ

Governor's Award Competition. Professionals are encouraged to attend the competition and support their school in other capacities such as students director, assistant director, etc.

## CONTEST SCHEDULING

Performance positions will be determined by the Contest Committee. Due to complexity of scheduling, performance times will be preset. If possible, a contest schedule will be sent with the time, date and place of performance.

## SET UP TIME FOR SCENES (See Scene Competition)

## CHANGES

Keep a record of your entries and report drops immediately. All name changes will be assessed a \$5.00 change fee per item. This must be paid BEFORE a student can compete.

## CONDUCT POLICY

Any contestant could be subject to point reduction or disqualifications, for themselves and/or their school if:

1. Behavior in hallways and around performance areas make it impossible to properly hear a performance.
2. Behavior in the theatre or performance area is not conducive to appropriate audience behavior.
3. Conduct is defiant, belligerent or disrespectful to staff, faculty or other students.

## CONTEST STRUCTURE

Preliminary Round – Includes all scenes, monologues and pairs.

Final Round – Includes top two scene, monologue or pair from each room in Preliminary Round.

## CONCERNS

Concerns regarding the fair application of rules and procedures must be addressed in writing within 30 days to the Tournament Director.

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN

STANJ is not responsible for any delay, bodily injury, loss or damage to the property of the participating contestants or spectators, during the time that they are on the premises where the contest is held.

## GENERAL CONTEST RULES

1. Each contestant or group will be given one preliminary round of competition and the top two in each room will compete in a final round.
2. Any contestant regarding clarification of rules, violations of stated rules, plagiarism, or disqualification should be presented to the Tournament Director before any action is taken, or any ballot is completed.

## ENTRIES

A maximum school entry is 6 monologues per category, 5 pairs per category and 2 scenes for each school.

## COMEDY/DRAMATIC PAIRS

Each pair will present a cutting from any PUBLISHED play (No screen play or Television script). The actors may use props, costumes, make up, and/or background music (live or recorded). The scene, with an appropriate introduction must not exceed TEN minutes, including set up and strike time. No scripts or prompters are to be used. All contests are held in regular classrooms or meeting rooms. A contestant may enter only one (1) pair, per category.

## IMPROVISATIONAL PAIRS

Schools may enter a maximum of five improvisational pairs.

Time: 5 minutes maximum

Procedure: The improvisational pair will first slate their full names, school number, and introduce themselves as an improvisational pair. Then, to prevent the performance of any pre-planned ideas or scripted sketches, the actors will select a slip of paper from one of the following categories to help initiate the improvised scene:

1. Relationship
2. Setting

OR

3. Theme/Main Idea (example: stage fright, first crush, spring break, etc.)

Once the actors have selected and read their suggestion, the actors will read the suggestion aloud, hand the slip of paper over to the judge to confirm the suggestion, and the timer will begin. Pairs will NOT be permitted to prep together before the scene. While the maximum time allowed will be five minutes, there is no minimum time requirement. Actors will be expected to create a scene that includes a beginning, middle, and end -- in other words, a story with a problem that gets resolved by its end. If the actors reach four minutes, they will be given a 1 minute warning in order to find an ending before time is up; they may, however, end the scene on their own at any point before the five minutes is up by pausing

and saying “scene.” In any case, the judge will stop the scene at the end of the five minutes. Scenes will not be permitted to continue after the five minute mark.

**\*\*\*ALL preliminary judges will be present in the FINALS round. Therefore students will be disqualified from receiving a trophy in the finals round if any characters, setting, plots or material of any kind is repeated from the 1st round. While STANJ recognizes that stock characters can be used in different forms of professional improvisation, all ideas must be created fresh and on the spot for the sake of this competition \*\*\***

### COMEDY/DRAMATIC MONOLOGUE

Each contestant will present a cutting from any PUBLISHED play (no screenplays or television scripts). The cutting need not be a complete scene or act, but should function as a meaningful unit of comedy. The actor may use props, costumes, make up and/or background music (live or recorded). The scene, with an appropriate introduction, must not exceed **FIVE** minutes. No scripts or prompters are to be used.

### SCENE COMPETITION

Schools may enter a maximum of 2 scenes. Each scene will be a cutting from a single published play and must have at least 3 actors. **The scene may not exceed FIFTEEN minutes**, including introduction, setup and strike. A contestant may enter only one scene. **MUST provide a CAST list with application.**

### Contrasting Monologues

-One contemporary monologue from a play published after 1910 and one classical monologue from a play published in 1910 or earlier.

-Students participating in this category must display “range” by selecting 2 distinct characters that are dissimilar in nature.

*For example: Falstaff is a classic, comedic stock character who is a womanizer and gregarious, whereas, Biff from “Death” of a Salesman is jaded, confused, and still trying to work through the issues with his father. However, Hamlet exhibits many of the same characteristics as Biff and would constitute a weak contrast even though they are from very different time periods.*

Other examples of strong contrasting characters are:

*Julia from “Two Gentlemen from Verona” & Laura from “The Glass Menagerie”  
Malvolio from “Twelfth Night” & John Proctor from “The Crucible;”*

-Not to exceed 4 minutes (introduction not included in time)

-Performers will slate “I am [state your school *number* and letter]. My first piece is from [title of play] by [name of playwright] the role of [name of character]. My second piece is from [title of play] by [name of playwright] the role [name of character].”

**Best Play (Non-Musical) – Note: Applications are due December 7<sup>th</sup>**

*A secure upload link will be sent to you upon receipt of your application.*

-Your school’s “full length play” from the time period of January 2018 to December 2018 must be submitted at the time the Competition Application Packet is due via digital video upload to a secure private Google Drive Folder.

-Adjudication will be completed prior to the competition by multiple judges. One 1st Place trophy will be awarded.

--The director may select three specific time index points for the judges to review which make your production stand out.

*--Please note that starting in the fall of the 2018, the video submitted must be a ONE camera still shot. No editing, no closeups, and no panning. We will allow edited videos for this year only to accommodate performances that have already been filmed.*

**Best Musical: Note – Applications are due December 7<sup>th</sup>**

*A secure upload link will be sent to you upon receipt of your application.*

-Your school’s “full length musical” from the time period of January 2018 to December 2018 must be submitted at the time the Competition Application Packet is due via digital video upload to a secure private Google Drive Folder.

-Adjudication will be completed prior to the competition by multiple judges. One 1st Place trophy will be awarded.

--The director may select three specific time index points for the judges to review which make your production stand out.

*--Please note that starting in the fall of the 2018, the video submitted must be a ONE camera still shot. No editing, no closeups, and no panning. We will allow edited videos for this year only to accommodate performances that have already been filmed.*

**Musical Solo**

- The performer will slate “I am [state your school *number* and letter]. My piece is from [title of musical] by [name of composer] and the role I am playing is [name of character]

- Song will begin immediately after introduction, and will not exceed 5 minutes.

- Material must be drawn from songs from published musicals, written for theatre.

- Performer must use pre-recorded, non-verbal accompaniment - no live music.

- Performers must bring their own speakers to play their music.

- Movement may be included.

- Props and costumes may be used.

**Musical Pair**

- Performers will slate “We are [state your school number and letter]. Our piece is from [title of musical] by [name of composer] and the roles we are playing are [name of both characters]

- Song will begin immediately after introduction, and will not exceed 5 minutes.
- Material must be drawn from songs from published musicals, written for theatre.
- Each actor must be actively involved in the selection.
- Performers must use pre-recorded, non-verbal accompaniment - no live music.
- Performers must bring their own speaker to play their music.
- Movement may be included.
- Props and costumes may be used.

### **Musical Ensemble (3-15 students)\*\*\*Only 1 Entry Per School\*\*\***

- The team will slate “We are [state your school number and letter]. Our piece is from [title of musical] by [name of composer] and the roles we are playing are [name of character each person plays]
- Song will begin immediately after introduction, and will not exceed 5 minutes.
- Material must be drawn from songs from published musicals, written for theatre.
- Each actor must be actively involved in the selection.
- Performers must use pre-recorded, non-verbal accompaniment - no live music.
- Performers must bring their own speaker to play their music.
- Movement may be included.
- Props and costumes may be used.

### **Pantomime Solo**

- The performer will present an original piece that does not exceed 3 minutes.
- The performer slate using a nonverbal cue. Example: Holding up a sign that has their schools number, letter, and title of their piece.
- No lip-syncing or audible vocal sounds by the performer is permitted.
- The performer may use pre-recorded, non-verbal music accompaniment or sound effects.
- The performer must bring their own speaker if using music.
- Props or costumes may not be used. All performers should be dressed in either ALL BLACK or ALL WHITE.
- The pantomime must convey a story with a beginning, middle, and end.
- One chair will be provided.

### **Pantomime Pair -**

- The performer will present an original piece that does not exceed 3 minutes.
- Performers will slate using a nonverbal cue. Example: Holding up a sign that has their schools number, letter, and title of their piece.
- No lip-syncing or audible vocal sounds by the performer is permitted.
- The performer may use pre-recorded, non-verbal music accompaniment or sound effects.
- The performer must bring their own speaker if using music.
- Props or costumes may not be used. All performers should be dressed in either ALL BLACK or ALL WHITE.
- All performers must be actively involved in the scene.
- The pantomime must convey a story with a beginning, middle, and end.
- Props or costumes may not be used.

- Chairs will be provided.

### **Stage Manager**

--Entrants must bring their prompt book for your school's full length play or musical to the Governor's Award Competition and the prompt book will be returned to the student that day.

-- Students will be interviewed on the day of the competition and prompt books will be reviewed at the time of the interview.

--One 1st Place trophy will be awarded.

The prompt book should include: a copy of the production script that includes blocking, light and sound cues, a list of props, a drawing of the set(s), contact information of the cast and crew, any other relevant documents that make you stand out as a stage manager.

### **Shakespeare**

Each performer must select, memorize and perform one monologue from the provided [Shakespeare Monologue Selections](#) list taken from the Folger Shakespeare Library and compiled by the English Speaking Union.

The entire text must be performed without omission or ad lib.

Performer will slate "I am [state your school *number* and letter] performing [name of character] from [title of play], act [number], scene [number].

Performers are encouraged to wear actor blacks. No costumes, props, effects, etc. are permitted.

Performers should speak naturally in their own voice rather than affect a British accent.

### **Communication Media**

-Entrants will create a 4 minute video presentation which will effectively communicate a message to the audience.

-Words and/or captions are prohibited.

-Only visuals such as video clips, still pictures (cartoons accepted) and music will be allowed in the presentation.

- A strong point of view achieves effective communication
- Information should be timely and accurate.
- Presentation must focus on an issue, current event, persuasive appeal which raises a full understanding of the outcome.
- The message must be clear and cause the audience to experience a reaction.
- The message may encourage change, a strong point of view of a social issue, or relevant information encouraging a change.

--Video must be submitted at the time the Competition Application Packet is due via digital video upload to a secure private Google Drive Folder.

**Note applications are due December 7th.**

## SCRIPT SUBMISSION

Scripts must be brought to the competition **and presented at the time of performance.**

## PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

1. No prompting is permitted in any category. Monologues, pairs, and scenes must be performed from memory. Penalty for failure to comply with this rule will be a ten point reduction. This rule will be strictly enforced.
2. All scripted categories must follow the dialogue the author indicated. No intentional paraphrasing or improvisation is permitted.
3. There is a 30 second grace period, in reference to time limits, before points are deducted. Scenes will be stopped after 30 seconds.
4. All contestants must bring a copy of the script used, **and presented at the time of performance.**
5. Costumes, props, etc. may be used, but not required.
6. All scenes, pairs, monologues and improv must be performed completely within the classroom, with the door closed.
7. School directors may not judge and will be expected to help with supervision/

## DISQUALIFICATIONS

STANJ reserves the right to disqualify or reject any competitor or group who has not complied with the regulations set forth in the contest rules.

## AWARDS

MONOLOGUE EVENTS – Six trophies in each event are awarded to the top six contestants. First place receives Governor’s Award.

PAIR EVENTS – Five trophies in each event are awarded to the top five contestants. First place receives Governor’s Award.

SCENE AWARDS – **Six** trophies in event are awarded to the top **six** contestants. **First place receives** Governor’s Award.

ACTOR AWARD – **Two trophies** from the Scene Category will be awarded to an actor (male **and** female) with the most outstanding performance. Actors will receive Governor’s Award.

## JUDGING

School directors may not judge. Judges will be hired from professional theatres, colleges, and schools not affiliated with competing schools. Judges should possess specified training or extensive experience in theatre events, as established by the STANJ Executive Board. Scenes and pair categories will have no fewer than two judges. All solo categories will have one judge. Guidelines are listed below.

#### ADJUDICATOR'S GUIDELINES

1. The competition for Governor's Award is a Drama contest. It is designed to promote and encourage performance.
2. There are no artificial theatrical limitations, such as three foot circle or touching the knee to the floor.
3. In the Improvisational events, the judge's are encouraged to look for depth of characterization, development of conflict and resolution, and effective character infraction. One situation card will be selected from the judge's envelope.
4. Scenes exceeding thirty (30) seconds overtime will be reduced by 10 points, which will affect ranking. These scenes will be stopped after the 30 seconds.
5. Props and costumes are not a consideration in this competition.
6. No judge is to ask a contestant the name of the school that they are from.
7. No judge is to give an oral critique to students. All contestants will receive written adjudication sheets through their teacher. Adjudication sheets will be available to teachers on the day of the festival, immediately following the Awards Ceremony.
8. Do not judge the contest of the script. There are no penalties for material choices. We are judging the performance, not the author.
9. All judges must stay for the entire day, unless otherwise stated in advance, and must make themselves available to the tabulation team.
10. There are NO TIES in ranking or in points.
11. Students must have a copy of their script available for the judges.
12. No props or costumes may be used in the Improvisational competition.
13. Judges are to PERSONALLY return their score sheets to the SCORE ROOM immediately following the round. ALL SHEETS MUST BE RETURNED WITHIN FIFTEEN MINUTES OF THE END OF THE ROUND.
14. Each judge will pick up his/her own ballots. At that time he/she are to write down the student codes. DO NOT judge any contestants unless they are officially assigned to you, or they present you with an official change slip, signed by the Tournament Director.
15. There are no video or audio recording devices allowed in any categories unless they are a prop for the scene.
16. No prompting is allowed.
17. Refer to general rules for time limits in each category.

