

JUDGES' WELCOME & ORIENTATION

Dear Judge(s),

Thank you so much for your willingness to participate in this very important event. Your interest in and enthusiasm for Alabama's high school French students is evident by your presence. Thank you for your dedication – we could not hold the French Convention without you!

The purpose of oral competition is to motivate and encourage students at all stages of their language development to experiment and improve their pronunciation and fluency while having fun. Most students have worked for weeks on their lines. Whenever possible, please help put them at ease, encourage, and congratulate.

For the oral competitions, students should be judged on the quality of the spoken French. The Group Skits differ from Individual presentations in that you must consider the quality of the spoken French from all characters. When scoring, please reward the *overall* correctness of speech from the entire cast instead of from one outstanding – or one weak – actor. The Judging Sheet for each competition lists the specific judging criteria.

You will use a 10-point scale on all judging criteria. If you feel that you have scored a previous performance in a series too high based upon subsequent presentations, you may adjust the previous score(s) as needed. You may also confer with your colleagues. It is not uncommon for a set of judges to score the same presentation differently; this is perfectly acceptable. In addition to the **Judging Sheet**, you may offer additional feedback for the students on the Judges' Feedback Sheet.

Each performance must be timed and the time must be logged on the **Master Score Sheet**. If the competitor(s) is/are over or under the time allowance, you will deduct points using the time management scale provided on the scoring sheet.

You must tally the score sheets yourselves. Fill in every blank. Once the highest scoring entry has been determined, it should be placed on top and all others should be placed under it, in order of their scores. You will use the entry earning the highest composite score to determine the range of scores that will receive the 3 levels of awards:

$.95 \times \text{top score} = \textit{Supérieur}$ $.85 \times \text{top score} = \textit{Très Bien}$ $.80 \times \text{top score} = \textit{Bien}$

If the top competitor's score is so high that a *Très Bien* is mathematically impossible, you will award it a *Grand Prix* and compute the rest of the prizes based on the second highest score. This is explained in detail on the **Awards Computation Sheet**. Of course, you may seek out an officer for assistance.

Regarding additional *mentions*, you may only bestow one "Most Humorous", one "Best Presentation of Traditional Material", one "Best Theme-Related", and one "Best Theatrical Presentation". You may award as many "Originality" awards as merited. Finally, an "Honorable Mention" is reserved for a performance you deem worthy of some recognition, but which scores below the *Bien* range on the computation sheet. Please do not give an Honorable Mention in conjunction with any other award.

Again, thank you for your interest in our students...and perhaps your future students!

The Alabama Federation of French Clubs