
Below are important updates to the NIEs program for the 2017-18 school year.

Recommendations:

- **Stage management** is the only discipline with three skills, which has made each skill weighted too heavy (1/3 of the score). We have separated the "Job Understanding and Interview" skill to allow for four categories to match the other technical categories.
- **Costume Construction** has been dramatically re-written. Specifically:
 - Publically available patterns are still required, but we've removed the specific patterns to use and removed the size requirements.
 - The costume does not have to come from a realized production, but in the presentation of the work, the student will need to explain how it would fit into the show for which it would have been used.
 - The rubric remains the same.
- **Slate guidelines.** We want to provide consistent slate guidelines as follows:
 - Student name(s)
 - Title
 - Playwright
 - Troupe # - *optional*
- **Short Film** additions - As we further grow our short film offerings, there is a need to expand the evaluation to best support the program. We have added "Animated" and "Documentary" to the short film to allow the work to be judged closer to the realized work (thanks to Texas).
- **Rule clarifications:**
 - "Showcase" will remain, but clarify that the showcase is a "Judges Choice".
 - All technical designs can be a play or musical. In 2016-17 we only listed the word "play". Will add "musical" in 2017-18.
 - Songs written for a duet can't be performed by one performer. Similarly, two performers can't do a piece written as a solo.
 - Clothing clarification: All black is still the rule. As a way to help the conversation, we will add: "Students will present themselves as a blank slate, refraining from clothing or accessories that distract from character." (Verbiage thanks to Colorado)
 - Technical IEs are **up to** 12 minutes, but can be less.
 - Reminder - no checklist is needed for technical IEs.
- We will continue to work on consistency with royalties/rights from our partners. If there are any questions, please refer them to Deputy Executive Director, Doug Berlon (dberlon@schooltheatre.org) for final ruling.
- We are offering an optional "community standards and copyright compliance form" for schools or districts wanting support for their selections (thanks to Texas).