



## LETTER TO FINAL JUDGES 2007/2008 Playwriting Contest

Dear Final Judges,

Thank you for agreeing to be on the final panel of judges for this year's Playwriting Contest! !! Without your involvement this contest would not be possible.

In this packet you will find the plays for the final round of either the High School or Middle School division of this year's contest. Realize the plays have already been screened at the individual school level and have been selected as the best five from each school (sometimes fewer). Please read all the plays and rank them in order of preference (1=Highest rating) on the attached rating sheet. There are five final judges in each division, so there should not be a tie.

While reading the plays keep in mind the following guidelines. Students were asked to write a one-act that takes place in one location with 10 or fewer characters.

Otherwise keep in mind:

- Does the play have a plot or story line?
- Was it interesting?
- Would the audience enjoy or get something from the play?
- Are the characters believable and consistent?
- Do the characters have goals or something they want?
- Are there obstacles (internal or external) that the characters encounter in reaching their goals?
- Do the characters resolve obstacles or conflicts?
- Does the dialogue sound natural?
- How would the play look onstage?
- Would it "work"? Do you like it?

Realize that staging a play does not necessarily mean the setting must look realistic--plays often suggest locations or major events. So if you liked the play don't worry **too** much about "how will they ever do that." Material should be appropriate for younger audiences and hopefully will inspire thought in the audience.

Thank you again for supporting this project!