

A.

| FULFILLING THE PRIME DIRECTIVE INVOLVES 4 PROCESSES: |                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PROCESS                                              | TOOLS                                                                   | ACTION                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>IMPRESSION</b>                                    | Verbal Commentary reflecting the caption Points of Comparison (POCs)    | The Judge uses verbal commentary to form an impression of the degree to which the group achieves all aspects of the caption.                                                                                         |
| <b>ANALYSIS</b>                                      | Criteria Reference Scale                                                | The judge uses the criteria reference scale to analyze the level of achievement, determine competitive neighbors, and refine the specific scoring range in which the group belongs.                                  |
| <b>COMPARISON</b>                                    | Comparative Questions, Spread Guidelines, Judge Notes and Scoring Totes | The judge uses notes and the comparative questions to determine the ranking, then the spread guidelines and scoring totes to determine the numeric distance between competitors in order to arrive at a total score. |
| <b>ADJUSTMENT AND REFINEMENT</b>                     | Spread Guidelines, Judge Notes and Scoring Totes                        | The judge uses notes and the spread guidelines to continuously monitor, compare, and adjust scores as new competitors enter the mix, to ensure proper ranking and spreads across the entire contest.                 |

B.

**A TOTAL "SCORE" HAS LIMITED MEANING ON ITS OWN, BECAUSE EVERY "SCORE" HAS AT LEAST 4 COMPONENTS (in order of priority):**

**RANKING:** of sub-captions and overall

**SPREAD:** the numeric distance between competitors in each sub-caption.

**PROFILE:** the relationship between "WHAT" and "HOW."

**RATING:** the total score derived from ranking, spreading, profiling and position on the criteria reference scale

|  | Rep | Perf | Tot   | Rep | Perf | Tot   |  |
|--|-----|------|-------|-----|------|-------|--|
|  | 97  | 96   | 19.30 | 97  | 95   | 19.20 |  |
|  | 1   | 1    | 1     | 1   | 1    | 1     |  |
|  | 95  | 93   | 18.80 | 96  | 94   | 19.00 |  |
|  | 3   | 4    | 3     | 2   | 2    | 2     |  |
|  | 96  | 95   | 19.10 | 95  | 93   | 18.80 |  |
|  | 2   | 2    | 2     | 3   | 3    | 3     |  |
|  | 90  | 91   | 18.10 | 94  | 93   | 18.70 |  |
|  | 7   | 6    | 6     | 4   | 3    | 4     |  |
|  | 92  | 94   | 18.60 | 90  | 91   | 18.10 |  |
|  | 5   | 3    | 4     | 7   | 5    | 6     |  |

**THE ACTUAL RELEVANCE OF RANKING, SPREADING, AND RATING CAN ONLY BE SEEN WHEN COMPARING THE SCORES ASSIGNED TO ALL PARTICIPANTS IN THE CONTEST.**

**C. ANALYSIS: VALUING WHAT IS OBSERVED AGAINST THE CRITERIA SCALES, AND REMEMBERING IT.**

➤ **DON'T RUSH TO COMPARISON WITHOUT THE CRITICAL STEP OF ANALYSIS**

- Slow down, and review the criteria and the philosophy.
- Make every effort to interrupt the immediate reaction to your "3 Ps" (either overly positive or overly negative), ease of sampling the program, etc. **(PET PEEVES, PROPENSITIES, PREFERENCES)**

➤ **THE CRITERIA REFERENCE SCALES ARE TOOLS. They do not take precedence over the judge's primary responsibility of ranking, spreading and profiling, which creates the rating.**

- The criteria reference scales are descriptions rather than definitions, and are more general than specific.
- Their application relies on judgment, experience, and knowledge of the paradigms of each class--which are never static.

**D. COMPARISON: MAKING DISTINCTIONS AND DETERMINING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN COMPETITORS.**

**THREE WAYS TO MAKE COMPARISONS:**

| BY SIMILARITIES                                                | BY DIFFERENCES                                                 | THROUGH THE SUB-CAPTION POINTS OF COMPARISON                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Influenced by your <u>preferences</u> and <u>what you see.</u> | Influenced by your <u>preferences</u> and <u>what you see.</u> | Directed by the philosophy of the caption and both <u>what you see</u> and <u>what you don't see.</u> |
| <b>LEADS TO AN UNBALANCED APPROACH TO THE CAPTION.</b>         | <b>LEADS TO AN UNBALANCED APPROACH TO THE CAPTION.</b>         | <b>LEADS TO A BALANCED APPROACH TO THE CAPTION.</b>                                                   |

**Combine your ability to IDENTIFY WHAT YOU SEE with your ability to FILTER WHAT YOU SEE AND DON'T SEE THROUGH THE SUB-CAPTION POINTS OF COMPARISON before arriving at your ranking.**

**E. SPREAD = The numeric distance between competitors (NOT between sub-captions)**

- Sub-caption spreads must facilitate both sub-caption ranking and total score ranking.

➤ **The SPREAD GUIDELINES ensure that all judges apply the same "value" to a tenth of a point:**

| SUB-CAPTION SPREAD GUIDELINES |         | Insignificant Differences | Slight Differences | Moderate Differences | Significant Differences |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
|                               |         | 0 to 1                    | 2 to 3             | 4 to 6               | 7 or more               |
| EXAMPLE                       | GUARD A | 71                        | 71                 | 71                   | 71                      |
|                               | GUARD B | 70                        | 68                 | 66                   | 64                      |

- Judges must make sure that their standard for the degree of difference remains constant throughout the contest. This is referred to as "tolerance," the "meaning of a tenth," or "the value of a tenth." (EX: If group A is .5 better than group B, is group C really only .1 better than group A?)

**F. PROFILE = The relationship between the WHAT sub-caption score and the HOW sub-caption score for each <sup>team</sup> spread**

- **THE PROFILING GUIDELINES ASSIST IN THIS PROCESS. However, the ability to accurately profile is impacted by--and secondary to--accurate sub-caption ranking and spreading between competitors:**

| PROFILING GUIDELINES | WHAT OVER HOW                      | HOW OVER WHAT                       |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|                      | Up to <u>approximately 1 point</u> | Up to <u>approximately 4 tenths</u> |
| EXAMPLE:             | <b>78/68 = 146</b>                 | <b>78/82 = 160</b>                  |

- **DERIVED ACHIEVEMENT = The scoring potential of the HOW has a direct correlation with the depth/ complexity of the WHAT.**
  - Likewise, the scoring potential of the WHAT has a similar correlation with the achievement principles demonstrated through the HOW.
    - If the HOW falls short of the depth, variety and range of the WHAT by more than approximately 1 point, the WHAT score is lowered (because it is probably unreadable).
    - If the HOW surpasses the depth, variety and range of the WHAT by more than *approximately* 4 tenths, the WHAT score is raised (because the high achievement deepens its quality and broadens its range).
- **JUDGES HAVE TRADITIONALLY ONLY USED A “FORMULAIC” PROFILE, where the HOW score has been the same or within .1 to .3 of the WHAT score. However, that really only judges one sub-caption.**
  - The profiling guideline of 1 point WHAT over HOW is one third of a box! Profiling has the potential to look like:
 

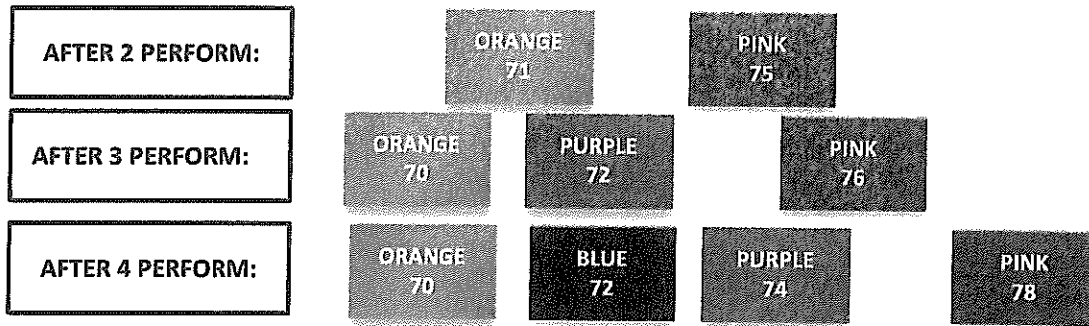
WHAT: *Most/Most* HOW: *Some/Some*  
or  
WHAT: *4 Some/Some* HOW: *3 All/All*
  - Using the full range of numbers available allows the score to better reflect the guards’ strengths and vulnerabilities:
    - ✓ The HOW profile to a 78 WHAT can be anywhere from approximately 68 to approximately 82.
    - ✓ The potential full score for a 78 WHAT sub-caption can range from a 146 to a 160!

|            |     | HOW BOX 4 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|------------|-----|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|            |     | 66        | 67  | 68  | 69  | 70  | 71  | 72  | 73  | 74  | 75  | 76  | 77  | 78  | 79  | 80  | 81  | 82  | 83  |
| WHAT BOX 4 | 74  | 140       | 141 | 142 | 143 | 144 | 145 | 146 | 147 | 148 | 149 | 150 | 151 | 152 | 153 | 154 | 155 | 156 | 157 |
|            | 75  | 141       | 142 | 143 | 144 | 145 | 146 | 147 | 148 | 149 | 150 | 151 | 152 | 153 | 154 | 155 | 156 | 157 | 158 |
|            | 76  | 142       | 143 | 144 | 145 | 146 | 147 | 148 | 149 | 150 | 151 | 152 | 153 | 154 | 155 | 156 | 157 | 158 | 159 |
|            | 77  | 143       | 144 | 145 | 146 | 147 | 148 | 149 | 150 | 151 | 152 | 153 | 154 | 155 | 156 | 157 | 158 | 159 | 160 |
|            | 78  | 144       | 145 | 146 | 147 | 148 | 149 | 150 | 151 | 152 | 153 | 154 | 155 | 156 | 157 | 158 | 159 | 160 | 161 |
| 79         | 145 | 146       | 147 | 148 | 149 | 150 | 151 | 152 | 153 | 154 | 155 | 156 | 157 | 158 | 159 | 160 | 161 | 162 |     |

↑  
“Formulaic profiling” (using only .1 to .3) ultimately judges only ONE sub-caption.

- **THE PROFILING GUIDELINES ARE INDEED *GUIDELINES*, RATHER THAN RULES.**
    - Under certain contest dynamics, the quantity of similar guards might force a profile to exceed the guidelines in order to facilitate accurate sub-caption ranking and spreading. This should be done with caution, but accurate sub-caption ranking and spreading takes precedence over the profiling guidelines.
- 5. ABOUT TIES: ABOVE ALL ELSE, THE PRIORITY IS TO HAVE THE RANKING CORRECT.**
- There could be times when overall ranking might force a sub-caption tie between close competitors.
  - If there is a sub-caption tie, re-examine the components of the sub-caption for relative strengths and weaknesses.
  - Sub-caption ties MIGHT BE NECESSARY in large rounds in order to keep all groups in the right scoring range.
  - Bottom line ties SHOULD BE AVOIDED by re-examining the sub-captions to see if there is a reason to avoid the tie.
- 6. ADJUSTMENT & REFINEMENT allow the judge to continuously monitor, compare, and adjust scores as new competitors enter the mix.**
- Spreads can then reflect the actual difference between competitors without being compromised by the order of appearance.
  - The process must be on-going throughout the contest, using the spread guidelines and applying the “meaning of a tenth.”
  - Judges should not try to adjust scores for competitors viewed hours earlier.

➤ **ADJUSTMENT CAN LOOK LIKE THIS:**



➤ **REMEMBER THE MEANING OF A TENTH:**

- The value of a tenth, or the standard for each level of difference, must mean the same thing throughout the contest.
- Using the previous example you would have needed to consider: If PINK is .4 better than PURPLE, is BLUE really only .2 better than ORANGE?

➤ **WHAT ADJUSTMENT MEANS TO THE JUDGES:**

- Like all scoring techniques, it must be developed and practiced outside of the contest environment!
- You will become a better judge because you have a real chance to GET IT RIGHT!
- Ongoing use of the comparison process and the spread guidelines throughout the contest is ESSENTIAL.
- This does not mean second-guessing yourself; it means being flexible and adaptive as new information comes into the comparison process.
- You will need to take clear, concise, scoring-significant notes that facilitate your comparison for the entire contest.

➤ **KEEP AN EYE ON "SIGNIFICANT" SPREADS AS MORE ~~GUARDS~~ <sup>Teams</sup> COME INTO THE COMPARISON PROCESS.**

- Mark and review any "significant" spreads and take good notes.
  - ✓ Mark with arrows any scores might be shifted higher or lower.
- AS NEW UNITS ENTER THE MIX, ADJUST ON BOTH SIDES TO REFLECT CORRECT SPREADS.
- This is an ongoing process! Don't wait until the end to start refinement.
  - ✓ Beware drastically changing scores from the beginning of the round when you are at the end of the round.

**7. APPLY A CONSISTENT APPROACH TO THE SCORING PRIORITIES:**

1. APPLY THE CRITERIA and BOX "THIRDS" to determine the "neighborhood" for each sub-caption.
2. RANK the sub-captions.
3. Determine the SPREAD between competitors in each sub-caption.
4. Examine the resulting PROFILE. Adjust if there is a good reason to do so.
5. RE-EXAMINE the application of the BOX THIRDS to CONFIRM the DEGREE OF DIFFERENCE between guards. ADJUST SPREADS if there is a good reason to do so.
6. Examine the resulting BOTTOM LINE RANKING, SPREAD, and RATING. ADJUST if there is a good reason to do so.
7. REPEAT with ALL GUARDS in the round.

➤ **DO NOT CREATE YOUR RATING THROUGH "REVERSE ENGINEERING"!**

- It is not OK to determine the bottom line score and then assign sub-captions scores to "make the math work."
- This bypasses the most important part of the scoring process: the analysis and comparison of sub-captions to lead you to your final comparison and bottom line score.