

PERFORMANCE SUBMISSION & FILMING GUIDELINES

Secondary Individual Events will have digitally submitted preliminary rounds.

The following guidelines will be piloted during the 2021-2022 MTA festival cycle for Secondary Individual Events. These guidelines are regarding virtual submissions of digital recordings for preliminary performance entries.

All other guidelines, rules, and regulations will continue to follow those laid out in the Secondary Individual Events Operations Manual in the 2021 MTA Handbook.

Timeline:

- **November 15:** Registration for Schools participating in 2IEs
- **November 15 - December 15:** Virtual Preliminary Performance Submissions Window
- **January 1:** Preliminary Judging Complete
- **January 5:** Finalists Announced
- **January 15:** 2IEs Final Round
- **January 16?:** 2IEs Awards Ceremony (Combined with the MTA awards ceremony? Prior to the MTA awards ceremony?)
- **Following MTA:** Teachers Receive Respondent Feedback (via email for prelims; in-person at the awards ceremony for finalists)

FlipGrid Submission:

- All performances will be submitted for evaluation through FlipGrid.
- Registrants will receive usernames and access information for the contest's FlipGrid group following the close of registration on November 15.
- Each performer will be responsible for submitting their own performance video.
- Entrants may record their performance directly into FlipGrid or may pre-record and upload their performance.
- Performers planning to upload their submission are encouraged to recognize that FlipGrid has file type and size limitations.
- MTA is not responsible for corrupted or unwatchable videos.
- Entrants should preview their upload prior to final submission to ensure that the video and audio are uploaded and playback is working correctly.

Filming:

- Adjudication and evaluative response will focus on the quality of the monologue and the performance rather than the video recording quality, however performers are strongly encouraged to use their available tools effectively.

- Performers should film their submissions on a computer or a smartphone camera.
- Entrants should refrain from using elaborate, studio-grade equipment.

Framing:

- Submissions must be filmed in LANDSCAPE (horizontal) orientation; submissions filmed in portrait (vertical) orientation will be disqualified.
- The performer should be the primary focal point of the video submission.
- Performers are strongly encouraged to find a neutral backdrop and should avoid using green-screens or virtual backgrounds.
- Adjudicators understand that extenuating circumstances may make it difficult or impossible to eliminate all clutter from a performer's private space and are asked to bear this in mind as they complete their evaluations.
- The camera lens should be placed at eye-level or slightly above eye-level.
- Each entrant should make a deliberate choice about how close their camera is to their face.
- Adjudicators want to see all of the important blocking, movement, and gestures in the performance; the framing of the video should allow for this.
- Performers should consider best practices in regards to framing (including but not limited to cropping across major muscle groups rather than at joints, leaving adequate clutter-free negative space, and composing the frame to focus on their face).

Lighting:

- Performers should be easy to see!
- Performers are encouraged to situate their camera between themselves and two separated light sources - a combination of lamps and natural light are effective.
- Performers should avoid standing directly in front of a light source, as this creates a silhouette and obscures the details of their performance.

Audio:

- Performances should be easy to hear!
- Entrants should listen to their audio playback prior to submitting their video.
- Performers should record themselves in a space that enhances vocal clarity and minimizes echo and excessive background noise.
- Most contemporary smartphones and computers have adequate microphones for capturing audio from an appropriate performance distance. As such, performers are discouraged from using bluetooth earbuds or other external microphones / voice amplifying devices.