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## *Drama Division Rules*

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All gold medal winners in the dance, drama and music divisions at the national level of competition will be invited to attend and participate as chorus members in the live stage show performance at the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

Note: Not all first-place winners will be asked to perform their entry in the show. Due to time constraints, the Festival show directors will choose approximately 25 dance, drama, and music gold medal entries to perform. The remaining gold medalists will be invited to make up the Festival chorus.

Veterans who wish to have their original work judged by **performance criteria** (stage presence, expressiveness and interpretation) should submit the entry into the **DRAMA** division in one of the categories below that best fits the entry. Veterans who wish to have their **original work** judged by criteria based upon the **merit of the composition** (creative content, message clarity, use of language, and originality of topic or idea) should submit the entry into the **CREATIVE WRITING** division.

1. First-place ties in a category at the local competition **MUST** be re-judged at the local level as only one entry for each category will be accepted from each VA facility.
2. All entries in the dance, drama and music divisions must be recorded after April 1, 2020.
3. Suggested length of performance - no longer than three minutes.
4. Judges reserve the right to move an entry to the appropriate category or disqualify the entry if rules are not followed.
5. The **addition of staff, volunteer(s), and/or Veterans who are not eligible Veterans to any entry will result in disqualification.** However, if a drama entry requires a female character and no eligible female Veterans are available, the part may be read by a female volunteer or staff member. *It should be noted that although the National Veterans Creative Arts Program recognizes the therapeutic value of participation of staff, volunteers and ineligible Veterans in groups, it is essential in keeping with the fairness of the competition that **only eligible Veterans** are competing against each other.*
6. All Veterans must contribute significantly to the presentation in a dramatic way and be seen on the video for an entry to be submitted into a group category.

*Note: VA staff contact persons will be notified via E-mail with the competition results.*

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# Drama Categories

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1. **Dramatic Prose** - Solo or group. A composition in ordinary speech or writing (not poetry). For example: a reading or excerpt from a speech.
2. **Patriotic Prose** - Solo or group. A composition in ordinary speech or writing (not poetry) with content that relates to American patriotism.
3. **Inspirational Prose** - Solo or group. A composition in ordinary speech or writing (not poetry) with content that is of spiritual nature.
4. **Comedy Prose** - Solo or group. Any drama of light and amusing character.
5. **Dramatic Poetry** - Solo or group. A verse composition.
6. **Patriotic Poetry** - Solo or group. A verse composition with content that relates to American patriotism.
7. **Inspirational Poetry** - Solo or group. A verse composition with content that is of an inspirational nature.
8. **Comedy Poetry** - Solo or group. A verse composition of light and amusing character.
9. **Interpretive Performance-Dramatic** - Solo or group. A presentation that involves acting, movement, and props.
10. **Interpretive Performance-Novelty** - Solo or group. A presentation that is of light and amusing character involving acting, movement and props. Mime, juggling, magic, puppetry and ventriloquism should be submitted into this category.
11. **Multimedia Video** - Solo or group. An artistic presentation of a theme or topic approximately three minutes in length that is created, directed and edited completely by an eligible Veteran or Veterans. The video must contain a combination of ***three*** or more of the following: photography (original images only), graphics, videography, music, sound effects, animation, spoken dialog and/or narration. Judging criteria for this category includes: Structure and Organization; Originality and Creativity; Total Presentation.
12. **Special Recognition** - Solo or group. Existing or original. **All specific category rules still apply when entering the special recognition category.** Entries that recognize individuals who exhibit creative expression through the use of drama while possessing significant physical or psychological limitations. The intent of this category is to reinforce the concept of the arts as therapy, where an individual uses artistic expression to facilitate successful treatment outcomes. ***Multimedia entries are not allowed in this category.***

Entries in this category **MUST** also include:

- **A Word document containing a typed statement/narrative** (25 to 225 words) composed by a VA staff person or the Veteran explaining why the Veteran is deserving of special recognition. **Entries submitted without a write-up will not be judged.**
- Consent form 10-3203 and 10-5345 (included in this handbook) must be signed and dated by the Veteran. The staff contact person submitting the entry for the Veteran should safeguard the signed consent forms at their VA facility.

## Sample Drama Judging Criteria

### Sample Drama Judging Score Sheet

Category Number:	Category Name:
Title of Entry:	

CRITERIA	POINTS									
Stage Presence	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Expressiveness	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Creativity	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Interpretation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

TOTAL SCORE \_\_\_\_\_

#### Multimedia Video

Structure & Organization	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Originality & Creativity	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Total Presentation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

TOTAL SCORE \_\_\_\_\_

\*Note: References to diagnosis and explanations of emotional or personal content related to the entry or Veteran will not be read or communicated to the national judges. The exception to this rule is an entry submitted into a category that require a write-up.