TEXAS THESPIANS
STATE FESTIVAL

PROP CONSTRUCTION

National Qualifying Event

This means that you are eligible to qualify for nationals with this competition.

RULES

- Only one entrant may be involved in the design. No collaborations are permitted.
- Begin with a slate (entrant's names, troupe number, title of selection, and name of the composer and lyricist.
- Design must be from a published play or musical.
- The materials and supplies used to create the prop must not exceed $100 in value.
- For the purposes of the Thespy Awards, a "prop" is defined as any object used by an actor in a performance that isn't part of the set or worn as a costume piece or accessory.
- There is no size restriction for props other than what you are able to easily transport, safely store and present on your own. No storage will be provided on site for your props.
- The Thespian must prepare a five- to eight-minute (5-8-minute) presentation showcasing and summarizing their work. The presentation should walk the adjudicators through the process of conceptualization, collaboration, and design/construction decision-making using the specific items listed under "Required Materials" below.
- All entrants should dress in professional dress.

Troupes may enter fifteen (15) IEs in ANY combination, however each student can only enter one National Qualifying event.

Required Materials

1. A fully constructed prop that reflects the Thespian's capabiliites and strengths, created to be used in a play or musical.
   a. The prop must be fully built/constructed by the Thespian. Purchased items that are finished or decorated are not allowed.
   b. The prop can be built using any materials or tools needed.
   c. The prop should be finished and ready for use by an actor on stage.
   d. The materials and supplies used to create the prop must not exceed $100 in value.
2. Research, including:
   a. Play synopsis
   b. Complete props list for the production
   c. Summary of given circumstances that include what the prop is and how it is used in the play
   d. Visual research that supports historical, cultural, or stylistic accuracy (especially important for period pieces or stylized worlds)
3. List of materials used to create the prop and step-by-step explanation of construction methods and the reasoning behind those choices.
4. Itemized expense sheet with accompanying receipts for all materials used to construct the prop.
5. Prop construction photo series that focuses on the process of building the prop (e.g., measuring, cutting, assembling, decorating, finishing) and at least one photo of the final prop.

Technical Theater Presentation Prompts

- What inspired your design concept, and how does it support the story or theme of the piece?
- How did you approach the research process for this design?
- What challenges did you face during your design process, and how did you overcome them?
- How does your design reflect or enhance the emotional tone or atmosphere of the piece?
- What materials, tools, or techniques did you use, and why did you choose them?
- How did you collaborate with others (director, performers, designers) to develop and refine your design?
- What choices did you make to ensure your design was practical and functional for a live performance?
- How did time, budget, or space limitations influence your design decisions?
- What are you most proud of in your design, and why?
- If you were to revise or expand this design, what would you do differently and why?

PREPARE YOUR SLATE

"Hello, I am _____ and I am from troupe # _____ and I will be presenting a prop design from _____ written by/ music/lyrics/composed by _____."

	4 (Superior)	3 (Excellent)	2 (Good)	1 (Fair)
PRESENTATION	Presentation clearly explains the functional and aesthetic purpose of the prop, the design and build process, and its alignment with the production's overall concept.	Presentation explains the prop's purpose and design process with clear connection to the production's concept.	Presentation includes some explanation but lacks detail or clarity on concept alignment.	Presentation provides minimal explanation or lacks insight into the design and build process.
RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS	Prop design is supported by thorough research into script needs, historical and contextual details, and the production's artistic goals. Analysis directly informs design choices.	Research is appropriate and supports most design choices. Script analysis is evident.	Research is limited or uneven; some design choices appear disconnected from the production's needs.	Research is minimal or missing; the design shows little connection to the script or context.
ARTISTIC INTERPRETATION	Prop design effectively communicates the production's mood, style, time period, location, and genre, enhancing the audience's understanding.	Prop design mostly communicates the production's context and supports the storytelling.	Prop design somewhat reflects the production's context, but lacks consistency or clarity.	Prop design does not clearly reflect the intended mood, style, or context of the production.
DESIGN JUSTIFICATION	Construction choices are clearly supported with acomprehensive explanation of practical, artistic, and budgetary factors, and show intentional alignment with the production's concept	Construction choices are explained with clear references to budgetary, practical, and artistic considerations.	Construction choices are somewhat explained, with partial attention to practical or artistic reasoning.	Construction choices lack clarity or are minimally justified, with little connection to the production's needs.
EXECUTION	The prop is well constructed, safe, and functional for stage use. The artifact binder thoroughly documents the design process, including: play synopsis with prop list, artistic intent, purpose and use of the prop, materials and methods, relevant research, and inprogress documentation	The prop is solidly constructed and functional. The binder documents key aspects of the design and construction process.	The prop is partially completed or somewhat functional. The binder includes design and construction process.	The prop is incomplete or nonfunctional. The binder is missing key elements or is unclear.

RATINGS	4 - Superior	3 - Excellent	2 - Good	1 - Fair
	(Score of 20-18)	*(Score of 17-13)*	*(Score of 12-8)*	*(Score of 7-5)*

TEKS **Theatre I.** 1F, I.1G, I.1H, I.3A, I.3C, I.3D, I.4A, I.4B, I.5B, I.5G **Theatre II.** 1F, II.3B, II.3C, II.3D, II.3E, II.4A, II.5B, II.5C, II.5D **Theatre III.** 1F, III.3A, III.3B, III.3D, III.3E, III.4A, III.5B, III.5F, III.5H **Theatre IV.** 1E, IV.1F, IV.3A, IV.3D, IV.3F, IV.4A, IV.5B, IV.5F, IV.5H