TEXAS THESPIANS
JUNIOR FESTIVAL

IMPROV

Texas Only Event

These events are only offered at Texas Thespian Festival and are **not** national qualifying events.

RULES

- A school may enter one (1) team in this category.
- A group consists of two-six (2-6) students.
- Each team will draw 3 topics. They will choose one to perform. They have 3 minutes of preparation, then perform a 3-5 minute scene.
- Students will...
  - Create a story that must follow the important points of the plot line - it should have a beginning, middle and end.
  - Create believable characters and character relationships.
  - The story must follow the rules of improvisation and the rules of the improv situation they are assigned.

10 Rule of Improvisation

- **Say 'Yes, and..."!** For a story to be built the actors have to agree on a WHO, WHAT, WHERE. Saying "yes, and..." allows you to agree on those.
- **Listen AND add new Info!** After the "and..." add new information. The scene cannot move forward unless new info is added, to push the scene.
- **Don't Block!** Blocking is the opposite of saying "yes, and..." and then adding info. Blocking = Denial = NOT GOOD IN IMPROV! Blocking stops the flow of info and can stop the scene in it's tracks.
- **Avoid Questions!** Questions = blocking in a more subtle form and makes your partner do all the work.
- **Focus On The Here and Now!** A scene is about the characters in the scene. The change, struggle, win or loss that they are dealing with IN THAT MOMENT!
- **Establish the Location!** Good scenes take place somePLACE at someTIME. They do not take place on an empty stage.
- **BE SPECIFIC!** Provide details, which are the lifeblood of moving a scene forward. Each detail provides clues to what is important. Details help provide objectives and flesh out characters.
- **Change Change Change!** The characters in the scenes must experience some type of change for the scene to be interesting. The character needs to go on journeys, be altered by revelations, experience consequences for choices and be moved by emotional moments.
- **Focus on Characters and Relationships!** Focusing on the characters and their relationships is the easiest way to make a scene serious or emotional.
- **Commit and Take Choices!** For humor, focus on actions or objects and TAKE what your partner gives you, then commit to it. Much like how focusing on characters and their relationships is the easiest way to make scenes serious. THIS is the easiest way to make a scene funny.