

Lowell Milken Center FOR *Unsung Heroes*



Performance Development Tips

General performance development tips:

1. Performance should be under the time limit
2. Do not use too much technology. Technology can mess up and ruin an entire performance. You cannot have a 2nd chance to perfect the technology.
3. If music is used:
 - a. Make sure it is played at the proper time.
 - b. Make sure it fits your project topic well
 - c. Make sure you do not use too much music throughout the performance.
4. Make eye contact throughout the performance with judges and audience members.
5. Every time you practice you will get BETTER!
6. Work triangles.
7. Speak slowly and clearly. You must enunciate!
8. Face towards audience always! Your volume will be lost and not heard if you turn away.

Script writing:

1. Start with 3 to 5 character ideas.
2. Start with 6 to 8 scene ideas and determine which ones will best help your performance share the unsung heroes story.
3. Gather quotes, primary sources, and interviews to support the 6 to 8 scene ideas. Choose the best ideas to put into the performance.
4. If you start writing the performance and choose to go a different direction than originally planned that is not an issue.
5. Have between 3 to 6 different scenes portrayed in your performance.
6. Develop a first draft and continue to re-write and change throughout all stages to best share the unsung heroes' story.
7. Make sure your script clearly explains the actions of the unsung hero.
8. Make sure transitions are smooth between scenes and the performance flows.

Intro/Ending:

1. All members must introduce themselves at the beginning of the performance.
2. End the performance with a bow. Everyone must smoothly bow together.
3. Come up from bow smiling at the audience.

Props:

1. Do not overdue props.
2. Do not overdue backdrop.
3. Performance must be ready to compete before developing more elaborate props.
4. Primary props or replicas are always a plus.

Costumes:

1. Do not overdue costumes, but make them as close to the time period as possible.
2. Primary costumes or replicas are always a plus.
3. Suggestion: Narrator wear black bottoms and white top for a neutral professional look.