

GUIDELINES for the NYSTEA Student Playwriting Contest

● Procedures

- Five plays will be chosen to be presented at the NYSTEA Student Conference.
- A school may submit as many plays as they would like.
- The winners will be chosen, based on a rubric, by our Panel of Readers and the committee.
- No more than TWO plays will be chosen from a single school.
 - If three winners are selected from one school, as a committee, we will choose the next highest rated play.

● Guidelines

- Scripts are to be no longer than 5 minutes in length.
- Two – four characters maximum
- Be very specific with setting and dramatic structure
- Think carefully about your characters. The actors portraying are selected from your peers at the Student Conference. (If the Playwriting Committee feels that a character is near impossible to cast, it will be reflected in the rubric scoring.)
- Your submission must have our official title page; ***print out the last page of this document for the official NYSTEA playwriting cover page.***

● Formatting

- Dialogue must be written in a size 12 font.
- Place a line space between each character's lines.
- After the official NYSTEA cover page there must be a title page.
 - This should have the title of your play centered in the middle of the page. There should be nothing else on this page besides the title.
- List all your characters and include a short description: name, age, personality, additional important information; please see below for the NYSTEA playwriting script example.
- Describe your setting, this should be written in paragraph form. Include all important details.
 - See below for the NYSTEA playwriting script example.
- All stage directions are to be written in parenthesis
- At the beginning of each scene include a “at rise”.
 - See below for the NYSTEA playwriting script example.
 - Describe the action on stage as soon as the curtain opens before any of the characters speak. Remember to describe the action that begins each scene when necessary.

(NYSTEA playwriting script example)

STEADFAST LOYALTY

Cast of Characters

DARLEENE O'TOOLE: 16 years old, a former child star
ANNETTE FUSILLI: 17 years old, class president
MRS. MARMALADE: 48 years old, a math teacher

Place

Skeffington High School Cafeteria, Willowton, Vermont

Time

Early Spring, 2006

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ACT I Scene 1

Setting:

Off to the side in the school cafeteria, near two vending machines. There are three tables with several chairs and a doorway that leads to the cashier and the food. There are trays on one table and a group, not involved in the action, diagonally across.

At Rise:

Darlene and Annette are coming from the lunch line after purchasing a healthy lunch. It is in the middle of the second lunch period at a busy public high school.

ANNETTE

(laughing and obviously very upbeat)

I can't wait till Friday! The bowling party will be so much fun. I have a fabulous red and yellow top that will go with my new bowling shoes. Is Bobby going to be there?

DARLENE

(yawning, as she reaches for the doughnuts)

I've had it with him. He just thinks he is all that and that I will always be there for Him. Well, you know what..... I probably...

(Title of Play)

Students (playwright's) name: _____

School's name: _____

Region: _____

Teacher's name: _____

Due Date: June 4th, 2021