

DTASC FAQ for Tech Judges

What's something important I should know about judging tech at a DTASC festival?

- First, understand that you're dealing with children. They won't be perfect.
- Next, if the tech coordinator doesn't congratulate them on getting their projects there, please be the one to do it. Up to half of the students who register for tech presentations never finish their work and don't come to the festival.
- The ones that are here need to understand that finishing the project and presenting it is a major accomplishment that deserves a round of applause for everyone. They should all feel good about bringing their work to festival.

Why do I have more than 1 ballot in my packet if I'm judging one Tech event?

- If you're judging Varsity, it's because we may have to split the group in the morning, depending on how many entries actually arrive.
- If you're judging MS/JV, one ballot is for MS and the other is for JV. We'll know by the school codes which one is which, but if you to mark it at the top of the ballot or on the envelope, that would be helpful.

Where do I get more share sheets?

- There should be a tech coordinator somewhere near by. The coordinator has extra share sheets (and ballots) for all the tech events.
- If you can't find the tech coordinator, have a room chair text to 818-517-3132 to say how many share sheets are needed, what color, and what room. The room chair can then come to Tabs to pick them up. Text first to save time.

What if I want to say a lot more on these share sheets?

- You can continue writing when you're in line for Tabs, or finish the share sheets at lunch. Just be sure they get turned in at Tabs no later than the end of lunch, so the students will actually get them. If you need more paper or additional share sheets, ask at Tabs.

I can't stay all day, but I really like judging tech.

- Ask the Judge Coordinator how long a day tech is expected to have. Sometimes it's through by lunchtime.
- However, if it can't be finished until after lunch and you cannot stay that long, your votes won't count. Your comments on share sheets can still be passed on.
- If at all possible, though, switch over to a performance area and judge acting events in the morning, so that your votes count.

Am I really judging a tech event all by myself?

- It's possible, but have the room chairs text for instructions. Maybe another judge is on the way. Maybe we're just really short of judges.
- If you're the sole judge, do the same job you would normally do with other judges present. Evaluate the presentations carefully, because you're picking the trophy winners. Write something good on each share sheet, even if the rest is constructive criticism. And thank you for helping your group of tech students have a good day.
- If you have special qualifications in this field, you might want to introduce yourself and tell the students a little about your background. They'll feel better to know a professional is judging them. (If it's not your field, don't say anything about it.) *(continued on back)*

- Reminder: do not discuss their work with the students except to ask them questions about it, if you want more information.
- When judging is finished, if you want each group to stand up again so you can remind yourself who's who, ask for that before students start leaving.
- You have plenty of time to fill out share sheets and the ballot then, but if the room chairs get antsy and want you to move, please let them escort you to Tabs. Someone there will find you space to continue writing.

I've seen all the entries. Frankly, everyone is missing key elements, and some of the efforts look slap-dash to me. I really don't think anyone deserves a first place trophy. Maybe none of them should get trophies.

- This happens from time to time. Write notes about your feelings on the back of the ballot or on the envelope – anywhere except the share sheets. Write on the front of the ballot “Read back” or something like that, so we turn it over.
- We normally give trophies for 1st thru 5th place, plus 5 Honorable Mentions. If no one really deserves a trophy, they will all get Honorable Mention plaques.
- On the share sheets, try to find something good to say about each entry. Then add some constructive criticism. Please don't say anything that would hurt a student's feelings.

One particular presentation really stands out. It's so terrific! Can't I tell the students that?

- Use the share sheet – just make sure you have the right school code for them. Do not speak to the students in person.

Notebooks – am I supposed to do something with them? They're not on the required list any more.

- The tech committee is hoping the judges can hold onto the notebooks after the students are excused, look them over, and agree on which is the best.
- If students ask about getting their notebooks back, tell them to go to Tabs in an hour or so.
- Criteria for best notebook: completeness according to the rubric for that event, plus appearance of materials. In other words, the best looking notebook that has the most stuff in it that it's supposed to have. Not just the prettiest – has to have content too.
- Write the school code for the best notebook on the back of your ballot. That means it's on the back of everyone's ballot.
- Deliver ballots, share sheets, and notebooks to Tabs.
- If Tabs says they don't want the notebooks, tell them to give them to Lynn.