

## Week Four - Upping our Game

Hello everyone,

We are midseason and thanks for your work thus far. We are hearing positive feedback from the majority of our work - keep it up! As the guards continually improve, so must we. Here are some reminders for week four.

**Cover the Full Caption** - In listening to files, we can better cover all points of comparison on both sides of each sheet. It is easiest for us to see the strengths and we certainly want to acknowledge those. Ensuring we speak to the full points of comparison for every team will ensure differentiation within the closer neighborhoods, and provide the team with valuable information. Focusing on one point of comparison can affect your impression in either direction. Look for ways the teams can get more points while letting them know the areas of opportunity.

**Larger Finals at Regionals** - As the Scholastic A class preliminaries are larger over the coming weeks, you will see finals that are 15 or more. This is the same challenge we often see during the world championship. Remember that “insignificant differences” between teams are 0-1 tenths in a subcaption. Teams in a box third are potentially a neighborhood. This means that your numbers management can include subcaption ties sooner (or anywhere) in your process for finals to allow for you to have room to use your full range of numbers in the other subcaption and across the contest. And you have lots of room above where you start for 18-20 teams as you need. Remember the scoring priorities and that something may have to be “let go” which is likely some subcaption rankings and the overall bottomline score. *Going higher is okay!* Contest dynamics make this situation occur. Consider ahead of time your strategy so you don't get overly stressed during the contest.

**Applying Information from Critique** - The opportunity for critique is two way communication. Please take notes and consider instructor input as you see the team the next time. It doesn't mean you have to agree with them but acknowledge what you heard and that you are considering that in your process.

**Meaning of Virtuosoic** - As part of our general theme to “know what you say and say what you mean,” we want to ensure you are prepared to explain your use of this word, virtuosoic. It is an expectation for the world class performers to demonstrate virtuosity. There can be a range of achievement along the criteria and based upon the settings in which the performers achieve and the layers of capabilities displayed. Here are some definitions of virtuosoic you can use and consider.

Virtuosoic performers exhibit exceptional technical skill, artistry, and stage presence. They possess incredible control, speed, strength, flexibility, and musicality, often performing highly complex and physically demanding challenges with apparent ease. Subtlety and handling risk in many ways are virtuosoic.

Some characteristics of a virtuosoic performer include:

- Technical mastery – Precision in executing sophisticated and standard-setting skills.
- Expressive artistry – The ability to convey deep emotion and storytelling simultaneously with other responsibilities.
- Effortless execution – Making difficult challenges, skills, and movements look natural and fluid.
- Innovative interpretation – Bringing unique stylistic choices, characteristics, or improvisational skills to their performances.

Process and synthesize ahead of your contests. Be focused, open, and present during your contests.

Please let us know anything you need.

Beverly & William