
Drama Division Rules

Veterans who wish to have their original work judged by **performance criteria** (that is, on stage presence, expressiveness and interpretation) should submit the entry into the **DRAMA** division in one of the categories below that best fits the entry. Veterans who wish to have their **original work** judged by criteria based upon the **merit of the composition** (that is, on creative content, message clarity, use of language, and originality of topic or idea) should submit the entry into the **CREATIVE WRITING** division. See pages 47-49 for a complete description, list of rules, listing of categories and judges score sheet for entries submitted into the Creative Writing Division.

1. **First place ties in a category at the local competition MUST be re-judged at the local level as only one entry for each category will be accepted from each VA facility.** A formal competition is not required at the local level but is strongly encouraged. All eligible Veterans should be given the opportunity to participate regardless of degree of talent.
2. **All entries in the dance, drama and music divisions must be recorded after April 1, 2017.**
3. **Drama entries must include a video recording of the Veteran(s) performing the entry and last approximately three minutes or less in length.**
4. Judges reserve the right to move an entry to the appropriate category or disqualify the entry if rules are not followed.
5. The **addition of staff, volunteer(s), and/or Veterans who are not current inpatients or outpatients to any entry will result in disqualification.** However if a drama entry requires a female character and no eligible female Veterans are available, the part may be read by a female volunteer or staff member. *It should be noted that although the National Veterans Creative Arts Program recognizes the therapeutic value of participation of staff, volunteers and ineligible Veterans in groups, it is essential in keeping with the fairness of the competition that **only eligible Veteran inpatients or outpatients** are competing against each other.*
6. All Veterans must contribute significantly to the presentation and be seen on the video in order for an entry to be submitted into a group category. (Note: If one Veteran is speaking and another is playing an instrument as accompaniment this would NOT qualify as a group entry but rather a solo entry with accompaniment.)
7. **Title Slides for SharePoint entries, CDs, DVDs:** Each entry must have a title slide displayed prior to the entry being shown. This is crucial to the judging process. The title slide can be inserted during the editing process or it can be done manually prior to the taping of the Veteran. A handwritten sign can be held up that states the **category, title of piece and name of Veteran or Veterans in the entry.** *Please do not include elaborate menus or graphics.*
8. Following the national judging, all of the first place-winning entries from the national competition in the dance, drama and music divisions will advance for viewing and **possible** selection for inclusion in the 2018 Festival stage show performance. Please note: Not all first place winning entries in the dance, drama and music divisions are invited to attend the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. Those invited to attend the Festival will be notified by mid-June, 2018 via their staff contact person.

Note: VA staff contact persons will be notified via E-mail with the 2018 competition results.

Tips for Taking Better Video Recordings

Please take a few extra minutes preparing a video correctly to give your Veteran the best chance possible during the judging process and to save hours of time with the judging process for our judges who donate their time.

- **Focus on the performer**, not the accompanists. Avoid taping from the back of the room. Stage presence cannot be judged if you cannot clearly see the performer.
- **Sound control** is important! Clear audio makes a performance much easier (and enjoyable) to judge. Make sure your sound is good and balanced.
- Consider holding your local competition and then video recording **ONLY** the first place acts that will be sent forward for national judging.
- **Dance, drama, and music entries** will be accepted digitally via the NVCA Competition SharePoint site or via CDs or DVDs for the 2018 competition. **If submitting entries on CDs or DVDs, A SEPARATE CD OR DVD MUST BE SUBMITTED FOR EACH ENTRY IN EACH CATEGORY. More than one entry on a CD or DVD will not be accepted.**
- It is necessary to **label each entry with a title slide (for all SharePoint, CD and DVD entries)**. This can be done electronically when editing your entries or it can be done manually by holding up a handwritten sign that states the category, title of piece and name of the Veteran(s) being shown. This is crucial to the judging process.
- Check your CDs and DVDs before mailing them and **make sure every act you intend to be on there is in fact there.**
- **Label your CDs and DVDs according to the instructions given on Page 11, Rule 21 – The Competition Phase.**
- Be sure to make a copy of your final CDs and DVDs for your own file/library in the event of lost or damage. **CDs and DVDs will be shredded post-judging and will not be returned to the VA medical facility staff contact persons.**

Drama Categories

1. **Solo Dramatic Prose** - A composition in ordinary speech or writing (not poetry) presented by one eligible Veteran. (For example: a reading or excerpt from a speech.) Can be existing or original.
2. **Group Dramatic Prose** - A composition in ordinary speech or writing (not poetry) presented by two or more Veterans. Can be existing or original.
3. **Solo Patriotic Prose** - A composition in ordinary speech or writing (not poetry) with content that relates to American patriotism. Presented by one eligible Veteran. Can be existing or original.
4. **Group Patriotic Prose** - A composition in ordinary speech or writing (not poetry) with content that relates to American patriotism. Presented by two or more eligible Veterans. Can be existing or original.
5. **Solo Inspirational Prose** - A composition in ordinary speech or writing (not poetry) with content that is of spiritual nature, presented by one eligible Veteran. Can be existing or original.
6. **Group Inspirational Prose** - A composition in ordinary speech or writing (not poetry) with content that is of an inspirational nature, presented by two or more eligible Veterans. Can be existing or original.
7. **Solo Comedy** - Any drama of light and amusing character presented by one eligible Veteran. Can be existing or original.
8. **Group Comedy** - Any drama of light and amusing character presented by two or more eligible Veterans. Can be existing or original.
9. **Solo Dramatic Poetry** - A verse composition presented by one eligible Veteran. Can be existing or original.
10. **Solo Patriotic Poetry** - A verse composition with content that relates to American patriotism. Presented by one eligible Veteran. Can be existing or original.
11. **Solo Inspirational Poetry** - A verse composition with content that is of an inspirational nature, presented by one eligible Veteran. Can be existing or original.
12. **Solo Comedy Poetry** - A verse composition of light and amusing character presented by one eligible Veteran. Can be existing or original.
13. **Group Poetry** - A verse composition presented by two or more eligible Veterans. Can be existing or original.

14. **Solo Interpretive Performance-Dramatic** - A presentation by one eligible Veteran that involves acting, movement, and props. Original or existing.
15. **Group Interpretive Performance-Dramatic** - A presentation by two or more eligible Veterans that involves acting, movement, and props. Original or existing.
16. **Solo Interpretive Performance-Novelty** - A presentation by one eligible Veteran that is of light and amusing character involving acting, movement and props. Original or existing.
17. **Group Interpretive Performance-Novelty** - A presentation by two or more eligible Veterans that is of light and amusing character involving acting, movement and props. Original or existing.
18. **Mime/Juggling/Magic/Puppetry and Ventriloquism** - Solo or group. Mime: A presentation that imitates actions without words. Juggling: The art of keeping several objects in motion in the air at the same time by alternatively tossing and catching them. Magic: The art of producing illusions by sleight of hand. Puppetry/Ventriloquism: Any act where the Veteran(s) manipulates puppets and speaks in such a manner that his voice seems to be coming from the puppet.
19. **Multimedia Video** - Solo or group. An artistic presentation of a theme or topic approximately three minutes or less in length that is created, directed and edited completely by an eligible Veteran or Veterans. The video must contain a combination of ***three*** or more of the following: photography (original images only), graphics, videography, music, sound effects, animation, spoken dialog and/or narration. Judging criteria for this category includes: Structure and Organization; Originality and Creativity; Total Presentation.

Senior Drama Category

20. **Senior Drama** - Solo or Group. The purpose of the senior categories is to allow Veterans who may have experienced diminished physical or cognitive functioning an opportunity to compete in a category with persons who are at a similar level and age. **The senior categories are special categories for Veterans age 65 and older.** Entries may be ANY type of drama. Group members must all be eligible Veteran inpatients or outpatients 65 years of age or older. As with other group entries, groups may not be expanded by staff, volunteers or ineligible Veterans. If a female partner is needed for the entry, then a staff member, volunteer or other person may be used, but the entry would be counted as a solo if only one Veteran is present. Seniors may also enter other categories in the drama division as well (not to exceed three total). ***Multimedia entries are not allowed in this category.***

Drama Special Recognition Category

21. **Special Recognition** - Solo or group. Existing or original. **All specific category rules still apply when entering the special recognition category.** Entries that recognize individuals who exhibit creative expression through the use of drama while possessing significant physical or psychological limitations. The intent of this category is to reinforce the concept of the arts as therapy, where an individual uses artistic expression to facilitate successful treatment outcomes. **Multimedia entries are not allowed in this category.**

Entries in this category **MUST** also include:

- **A written statement/narrative** (25 to 225 words) by a VA staff person or the Veteran of why the Veteran is deserving of special recognition
- Consent form 10-3203 pages 83-84) and 10-5345 (page 22) must be signed and dated by the Veteran. The staff contact person submitting the entry for the Veteran should safeguard the signed consent forms at their VA facility.

Drama Judges' Score Sheet

Judges at the 2018 National level of competition will be ranking each drama entry based on the following criteria. Please consider using this score sheet for your local competitions.

Drama Judging Score Sheet

Category Number:	Category Name:
Title of Entry:	

CRITERIA

POINTS

Solo Categories

Stage Presence	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Expressiveness	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Creativity	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Interpretation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

TOTAL SCORE _____

Group Categories

Stage Presence	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Creativity	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Interpretation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Consistency	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Pacing	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

TOTAL SCORE _____

Multimedia Video (Category 19)

Structure & Organization	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Originality & Creativity	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Total Presentation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

TOTAL SCORE _____

Submitting Digital Media Files

For the 2018 competition year, performing arts division entries will be accepted in the following formats. Our preference is listed in the following order for receiving entries:

OPTION 1: Upload to SharePoint

Digital media files uploaded to the NVCA Competition SharePoint site:

<https://vaww.visn23.portal.va.gov/stc/NVCACompetition>. The only file extensions that will be accepted are: .wmv and .mov (the preferred format is .wmv). These extensions are the most standard digital formats and can be opened on most computers. We recommend video files uploaded to the SharePoint site be **50 MB or less**. If entries are not submitted in the formats indicated above they risk not being playable and therefore not able to be judged at the national level of competition. Entries submitted via the SharePoint site **MUST** also contain title slides prior to each solo and group entry shown.

OPTION 2: Digital media files provided on individual CDs or DVDs

A separate CD or DVD must be submitted for each entry in each category. More than one entry on a CD or DVD will not be accepted. For data CDs and DVDs, the only file extensions that will be accepted are: .wmv and .mov (the preferred format is .wmv). These extensions are the most standard digital formats which can be opened on most VA computers. If entries are not submitted in the formats indicated above they risk not being playable and therefore not able to be judged at the national level of competition. Entries submitted on CDs or DVDs **MUST** also contain title slides prior to each solo and group entry shown. Authored DVDs will also be accepted. **CDs and DVDs sent to the national level of competition cannot be returned. Please make duplicate copies of the media files and all paperwork for your records.**

Digital Media File Naming:

Division abbreviations: Dance = **DA** Vocal Music = **VM**
 Drama = **DR** Instrumental Music = **IM**

Use CAPS for the title of the entries and use small letters for initials (first and last name initials of Veteran performer) Example: The drama entry of a Solo Patriotic Prose entry titled "America" created by John Doe from St. Cloud VA Medical Center would be named:

DR-03-AMERI-jd-656

Division Abbreviation-Category #-FIRST 5 LETTERS OF TITLE-Veteran initials-Station Number

*Note: For group entries, omit the Veteran(s) initials. ***DR-04-AMERI-656***

Division Abbreviation-Category #-FIRST 5 LETTERS OF TITLE-Station Number

Do not use any spaces when naming the entries.

2018 Drama Division Entry Submission Process



For the 2018 competition, **entry form information** may be submitted through the NVCA Competition SharePoint site.

National Veterans Creative Arts Competition SharePoint Site Link

<https://vaww.visn23.portal.va.gov/stc/NVCACompetition>


The National Veterans Creative Arts Competition SharePoint site can only be accessed by VA employees using a networked VA computer. Non-VA employees cannot access the SharePoint site.

If entries are submitted via the link above it is not necessary to submit hard copies of the entry forms. All information on the following pages must still be collected for VA staff input into the electronic database on the SharePoint site. The electronic database will not allow you to successfully submit an entry into the competition unless each field is complete. Please be sure to provide as detailed a description of the mediums and techniques used as possible.

VA staff contact person: Be sure to obtain additional Veteran contact information for your reference use only, to notify the Veteran of the competition results.

- All entries submitted to the national level of competition **must be uploaded or postmarked on or before Friday, March 23, 2018.**
- The National Veterans Creative Arts Chairpersons prefer entries be sent via the NVCA Competition SharePoint site however CDs/DVDs containing images and digital video files will also be accepted.
- It is recommended to send your mailed items with the option to track the packages to ensure delivery.
- It is recommended to send a cover page with any paperwork that is faxed.

Drama Division Checklist

<p>Dana Castanier (122TR) National Drama Chairperson VA Medical Center 5500 Armstrong Road Battle Creek, MI 49037</p>	 New!	<p>Phone: (269) 966-5600 x33933 FAX: (269) 223-6101 E-mail: Dana.Castanier@va.gov</p>
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Checklist of Items to Send for National Judging:	
✓	Entry Form
✓	List of Entries form
✓	Local Level Participation Form
✓	Submit a video recorded entry. Entries may be submitted via upload to the SharePoint site https://vaww.visn23.portal.va.gov/stc/NVCACompetition OR mail a separate CD/DVD for each entry in each category.
✓	Therapeutic Arts Scholarship (TAS) Submission Forms – Only if nominating a Veteran for consideration to attend the Festival based on a therapeutic objective. <i>Each VA medical facility may only send <u>one</u> TAS Submission to the national level of competition.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nomination Form (page 19)



New Consent Form Information

<p>Consent Form 10-3203 <i>(page 83-84)</i> Consent for Production and Use of Verbal or Written Statements, Photographs, Digital Images, and/or Video or Audio Recordings by VA</p>	<p>This form must be signed and dated by every Veteran entering the competition.</p>	<p>The staff contact person submitting the entry(ies) for the Veterans should safeguard the signed consent forms at their VA facility.</p>	<p>It is no longer necessary to send this consent form to the national chairpersons.</p>
<p>Consent Form 10-5345 <i>(page 22)</i> Request for and Authorization to Release Medical Records or Health Information</p>	<p>This form must be signed and dated by every Veteran entering a category that requires a write-up including the Therapeutic Arts Scholarship (TAS) nominations.</p>	<p>The staff contact person submitting the entry(ies) and TAS nominations for the Veterans should safeguard the signed consent forms at their VA facility.</p>	<p>It is no longer necessary to send this consent form to the national chairpersons.</p>