
Drama Division Rules

1. **Drama entries must be video recorded and last approximately three minutes or less in length.**
2. Drama entries may not be expanded by non-veterans. 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.
3. **The addition of staff, volunteer(s), and/or Veterans who are not current inpatients or outpatients to any entry other than to fill a female role will result in disqualification.** 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.
4. 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.)
5. Judges reserve the right to move an entry to the appropriate category or disqualify the entry if rules are not followed.
6. Veterans must perform each of their entries themselves on the video recording in order for the entry(ies) to be eligible for competition judging.
7. Each video recorded entry must contain a title slide/page that includes the category number, category name, title of piece and name of Veteran(s) in the entry. The time it takes for the title page to be viewed does not count against the 3 minute entry.

Note: VA staff contact persons will be notified via E-mail with the 2016 competition results.

Submitting Digital Media Files

For the 2016 competition year, performing arts division entries will be accepted in the following formats. Our preference is listed in the following order for receiving entries:



Note: Entries submitted on VHS videotapes will no longer be accepted.

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 files (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. Paperwork will still need to be submitted via regular mail (due to Veteran and staff signatures needed).

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.wmv

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

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

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

Do not use any spaces when naming the entries.

Drama Categories

Note: 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 55-59 for a complete description, list of rules, listing of categories and judges score sheet for entries submitted into the Creative Writing Division.

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).

Drama Special Recognition Category

21. **Special Recognition** - Solo or group. Existing or original. 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. Entries and their accompanying written statements from the Veteran's VA staff contact person should focus on how the arts are used by the individual(s) to rise above severe limitations.

Entries in this category **MUST** include:

- Solo or Group Entry form
- 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
- Form 10-3203 – 2 pages (Consent for Production and Use of Verbal or Written Statements, Photographs, Digital Images, and/or Video or Audio Recordings by VA) signed by the Veteran and VA staff contact person.
- Form 10-5345 – 1 page (Request for and Authorization to Release Medical Records or Health Information) signed by the Veteran and VA staff contact person.