



Vocal Elements: 60 pts (x1.5)

Solo: 10 pts

- Do the soloists' performances complement the group's performance?
- Do soloists convey the emotions of the song convincingly?
- If applicable, does the solo line transition smoothly between individuals and/or groups?

Intonation: 10 pts

- Is there consistent tuning throughout the performance?
- Is the pitch centered?

Balance: 10 pts

- Are the harmonies, rhythms, and melodies balanced?
- Is the group unified musically?
- Musically cohesive?

Rhythm: 10 pts

- Are the VP and bass in sync?
- Is the tempo consistency maintained?
- Are rhythmic sections clean or "crisp"?
- Are cut-offs and entrances clean?

Stylistic Interpretation: 10 pts

- Is the piece musically interesting?
- Is the arrangement cool?
- Do the artistic choices support the piece?

Dynamics: 5 pts

- Is there volume contrast throughout the piece and in phrasing (i.e. macro- and microdynamics)?
- Do dynamic contrasts swell as a group or do a few members stick out?

Tone: 5 pts

- Is the vocal styling appropriate and consistent?
- Does the group blend?
- Do voices have appropriate timbre/stylization to match the piece? (i.e. do "ah"s and "ooh"s remain entirely pure and choral or do elements of pop creep in when appropriate?)



Visual Elements: 60 pts

Energy / Emotion: 15 pts

- Do the performers convey the emotions of the song?
- Does the ensemble's energy match the song?
- Is the performance believable? (i.e. does it seem that the performers are singing from a place of heart?)

Cohesion: 15 pts

- Do movements match the energy of the piece?
- Do the visuals add to or distract from the music?
- Is the performance visually cohesive, unified, themed?

Staging: 10 pts

- Are movements synced up when appropriate?
- Do performers share a similar and consistent level of intensity and emotion?

Entertainment: 10 pts

- Did you enjoy watching this performance?
- Would you watch this performance again if this were on YouTube?

Creativity: 10 pts

- Are visual approaches unique?



Numerical Values

All of the above categories will be scored on either a 1-10 or a 1-5 scale. For each of the scales, the following descriptions will be used as a base for the points awarded. The term “expectations” is mentioned many times in these numerical values. ***“Expectations” are based upon the average high school a cappella group and scores will not be relative to other competing groups.***

On a 1-10 scale:

- 1: poor, failed to meet all expectations in this category
- 2: poor, failed to meet almost all expectations in this category
- 3: below average, met some of the expectations in this category but many distracting issues
- 4: below average, met some of the expectations in this category but there were some distracting issues
- 5: below average, met most of the expectations in this category with a some major problems
- 6: average, met almost all of the expectations in this category with a few minor issues or one major problem
- 7: good, met almost all of the expectations in this category with only minor issues
- 8: very good, met all of the expectations in this category with only a few minor issues
- 9: excellent, exceeded almost all expectations in this category, no issues
- 10: exceptional, exceeded all expectations in this category, no issues, professional level

On a 1-5 scale:

- 1: very poor, failed to meet all expectations
- 2: below average, met some of the expectations but there were some distracting issues in this category
- 3: average, met most of the expectations with a some major problems
- 4: very good, met all of the expectations with only a few minor issues
- 5: excellent, exceeded almost all expectations, no issues



Judging Mechanics

NE Voices will use a set of 4 judges for the virtual semifinals and a set of 4 judges for the live finals. Judges will score and offer feedback on a per song basis for a single category (i.e. 3 songs = 3 song scores for a single category).

Half of the judges will score solely on Vocal elements and the remainder will score solely on Visual elements, these roles will be assigned at the discretion of the NE Voices Competition team. Vocal element scores will be weighted by 1.5x, as described by the following equations.

For each song, you will calculate the **song score** as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Vocal Score} &= \text{Vocal Judge 1 Score} + \text{Vocal Judge 2 Score} [+ \text{Vocal Judge 3 Score}] \\ \text{Visual Score} &= \text{Visual Judge 1 Score} + \text{Visual Judge 2 Score} [+ \text{Visual Judge 3 Score}] \\ \text{Song Score} &= 1.5 * \text{Vocal Score} + \text{Visual Score} \end{aligned}$$

The **final score** for rankings and comparisons will be true average of song scores rounded down to the nearest whole point (e.g. an average of 123.9 will round down to 123):

$$\text{Final Score} = \frac{\text{Song Score 1} + \text{Song Score 2} + \dots}{\text{Number of Songs}}$$