

Top 6 Theatre Advocacy Tips



Julie Matta, Troupe 1038

Number 1: Target Group

Thinking ahead to your audience and how to approach them in the most effective way is one of the most important things when you are advocating. For example, if you are going to present at a school administration meeting think of how the people in that group will react to certain tactics and fact. Think in these three ways: Formal, Leisure, and Random. These should all be the top peak of when advocating.

Number 2: What is my Goal?

This is the most important question you should be asking yourself when advocating and addressing any problem or situation. Why am I doing it and what do I want out of it? After you have established thing question you can set up a goal and how you want to reach in a SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Timely) way this will give a platform and boost to reach that big goal in mind making little ones to get to it!

Number 3: The Big Picture

When you're in the thick of it, it may seem hard to see progression and the end result. EVERY. SINGLE. PERSON. FEELS. THIS. WAY. It is alright to ask for help, in fact it is recommended that you do so because the task you have at hand is more than likely affecting more than one person. This brings everything full circle because you need people and ideas to advocate for. Find that community, find that passions and keep going.

Number 4: Resources and Tools

Looking into the depth of the worlds problems is time consuming and difficult to navigate. Find the resources and help that you need is even harder. The biggest tip that I can give is simply talk and research. Find out what you don't know and make yourself more knowledgeable on subjects that will come up in the thing you're advocating for. More than likely, if you are the one advocating, you have to be an expert in the subject, and if you don't know the answer to find out. This will lead you to new opportunities, people, and gateways that you never knew even existed.

Number 5: Finding a Need

This is the fuel that keeps the engine of advocacy running. It is in essence, what advocacy is. To find a demand and order a supply for it. When this is established and or created you have something tangible and something to run with in terms of a starting point. When this is created you not only are actively trying to solve this problem but creating an environment of outreach. It gets to be like a snowball effect, for example: I want more funding for theatre arts because their is no room for us to rehearse anymore. Now there's a very important word in that last sentence, because--it connects the want with the need.

Number 6: Getting Started

Now after all these tips I think you're ready to begin. The biggest people lesson and the thing people appreciate the most is authenticity. People at the end of the day want to see you and only you. They want to hear your opinions, and don't be afraid to say "I don't know" or "no" these words are not signs of weakness but of honesty. It is alright to take a break and let go you do not always have to be a leader. Be a team member instead as you are all working towards the same goal, future, and passion. Now go get that thing done!

Iowa Thespian Festival

Amber Schute, Troupe 69

Iowa Thespian Festival is coming up quickly! The Iowa Thespian Festival is an annual event sponsored by the Iowa Educational Theatre Association, attended by over 1,000 theatre students and directors from across the state. The 2019 Iowa Thespian Festival will be held on Friday, November 8 and Saturday, November 9 on the campus of the University of Northern Iowa.

At Festival, you will have the opportunity to watch mainstage productions, as well as a number of one act plays and smaller performances. This is a great way for you to experience the work that other high school theatre departments are doing across the state of Iowa. Students are also given the chance to perform and compete in theatre events. Events include a variety of acting, musical theatre, design, and technical events. Students competing in Individual Events have an opportunity to perform for adjudicators and delegates at Festival for the opportunity to qualify to perform at the International Thespian Festival! If you are a senior and interested in pursuing a career in theatre, you can audition for the chance to receive college and thespian scholarships. You can even meet and talk with college representatives during scholarship auditions. Students can also attend workshops led by talented theatre artists. At workshops, you can learn lots of interesting things about whatever area of theatre interests you! Throughout the Festival, you get to meet and hang out with hundreds of high school theatre students from across the state of Iowa! Thespian Festival is an amazing opportunity and filled with many beneficial activities!

To get registered for Thespian Festival is very easy! You can simply follow a step-by-step guide at www.iowathespians.org to ensure you complete each part of the registration process. Keep in mind, you do not have to be a Thespian to attend State Thespian Festival! Don't forget that the registration deadline is October 15, 2019! Don't miss out on this spectacular event! Get registered now!

The basic registration cost per person includes...

- Seats in Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center for mainstage productions and presentations
- Official 2019 Iowa Thespian Festival T-Shirt
- Admission to workshops, Individual Event performances and showcase, and college exhibits
- Three Meals - Friday (Lunch and Dinner) and Saturday (Lunch)

Fees and Charges

- Troupe Director (only one) - Free
- Chaperone Fee - \$75
- Student Delegates - \$100
- Student Delegates if postmarked after October 15, 2019 - \$115
- Additional Fees (if applicable)
- Solo Individual Events (per event) - \$20
- Duet or Group Individual Event (per event) - \$40

College/Thespian Scholarship Auditions - \$20

Tech Challenge Fee (per team) - \$40

Studio Theatre Performance Fee - \$60

Mainstage Performance Fee - \$500

Back to School Thespian Checklist

Casey Scott, Troupe 3994

- See summer shows, support local theatre!
- Back to school shopping: pick up some scripts! You can find awesome dramas and comedies at <https://www.dramatists.com/>
- Prepare audition pieces for fall shows, there are plenty of categories, and monologues from different shows here: <https://www.dailyactor.com/monologues-from-plays/>
- Look for sponsors! Start fundraisers! According to previous STO, the wonderful Brady Booth of Troupe #69, “I learned that cabarets or like little performances that you don’t have to buy rights for make great fundraisers.”
- Get excited for #ThesFest19! Talk to your director to learn more, or visit our website at <http://www.iowathespians.org>

Letter to the Editor: Applying For College for Theatre

As we all get started on the 2019-2020 school year, some students (including myself) have already started to apply for college. Like many senior Thespians, I want to major in theatre in college. Whether you are thinking of applying for performance or technical theatre, or just want to learn more about the process, I’m here to help you navigate the confusing world of theatre college applications.

First things first, research is key! Make sure you know what you want from your schooling. Some colleges offer BA programs, while others offer BFA programs. BA programs give you a broader range of knowledge about theatre, while BFA programs offer specialized training in your major. Also make sure to take into consideration how many people are in your degree program, how soon you get to be involved in productions, and how many of the people who graduate fins work. You can also consider researching the faculty and what alumni have done/are doing. If you have additional questions you can’t find answers to, you can always contact the faculty, it’s part of their job to cater to prospective students!

Once you have your list of schools, it's time for the application process! Make sure to find out if your school requires you to submit a prescreen or not. Prescreens are a way for schools to filter through students to choose ones they would like to apply for their school. For performance majors, schools have you submit videos of yourself. For technical majors, schools have you submit portfolios. Regardless of program, if there is a prescreen for the school, do not apply to the college unless asked to. This way, you will avoid the cost of an expensive application fee.

If you get past the prescreen process, congratulations! Fill out the application to the school itself whether it's through the school's website or the Common Application. Then, you have to apply to the School of Theatre or Drama or Music, depends on the school. This usually includes submitting a reference, a headshot, and a resume. Your reference should be someone who you've worked with in theatre whether it be your drama teacher at school, a director, or a private instructor. Make sure your headshot looks professional; avoid school pictures or selfies you took. You can always ask a photographer, friend, or even the art teacher at your school. When making your resume, don't overload it with information. Think of it as a highlight of your theatre career. Try to showcase different places you've done shows and different directors you've worked with, as well as different positions you have held like stage manager or head of properties.

After you've submitted all that, it's time to schedule your audition/interview. Each school has a slightly different way of scheduling auditions and interviews. Some will have you pick a time when you submit the application, others will call or email you. Some schools travel around the country for their auditions and interviews, others have strictly on campus auditions and interviews. Make sure to take this into consideration when scheduling your audition/interview. Some of the schools even come together to do auditions, like UNIFIEDS in Chicago.

After that, you hopefully receive a lot of acceptance letters! Seniors, it's scary but we can do this! Keep in mind schools always want you to be the best thing they've seen. Be you, and be fabulous! If you have any questions, or just need someone to talk to DM me on social media or email me. I'd love to talk to you!

Break a leg seniors!

Anna Myatt, Troupe 856

What Musical on Broadway are You?

Taylor Hammer, Troupe 385

- 1) If I had a superpower, it would be...
 - a) Brainwashing
 - b) Shapeshifting
 - c) Invisibility
 - d) Time Travel (Shoutout to IowaTF 2019!)
 - e) Flying
 - f) Spellbinding

g) Super speed

2) It's my first day of school. The color that I will wear is...

- a) Pink
- b) Black or dark colors
- c) Blue
- d) Gold, brown, or neutral colors
- e) White or light colors
- f) Green
- g) Red

3) My favorite thing about a musical is...

- a) Singing along to the songs
- b) Characters
- c) The meaning behind the story
- d) A catchy soundtrack
- e) The music score
- f) Costuming
- g) Effects

4) My favorite of these songs are...

- a) World Burn
- b) The Whole Dead Thing
- c) You Will Be Found
- d) My Shot
- e) The Music Of The Night
- f) Popular
- g) Way Down Hadestown

5) The style of music I like best is...

- a) Modern Pop
- b) Pop Rock
- c) Lyrical
- d) Rap
- e) Classical
- f) Old Pop
- g) Rock

6) My go-to snack to bring to the theatre is...

- a) Pink lemonade
- b) M and M's
- c) Ice Cream
- d) Popcorn
- e) Skittles
- f) Pretzels
- g) Snickers

7) I would describe myself as...

- a) Attractive
- b) Funny
- c) Shy
- d) Brave
- e) Confident
- f) Independent
- g) Strong

8) What's most important to me is...

- a) My friends
- b) Family
- c) Being kind
- d) Courage
- e) Love
- f) Being yourself
- g) Trust and loyalty in those around me

9) Out of these quotes, which is the most meaningful to me?

- a) "The darker the night, the brighter you shine."
- a) "I, myself, am strange and unusual."
- b) "Today at least your you, and that's enough."
- c) "If you stand for nothing, what'll you fall for?"
- d) "Close your eyes and let the music set you free."
- e) "It's just life, so keep dancing through."
- f) "I think I'll try defying gravity."
- g) "See how the world could be in spite of the way it is."

10) I would move to this city...

- a) Chicago, Illinois
- b) Burlington, Vermont
- c) San Diego, California

- d) London, England
- e) Paris, France
- f) New York City, New York
- g) Athens, Greece

11) I would get in trouble for...

- a) Gossiping
- b) Accidentally offending someone by a joke
- c) Telling a lie
- d) Leaving someone open on "read"
- e) Accidentally breaking something
- f) Being late
- g) Arguing with your sibling

12) If I could choose, I would live in this time...

- a) Early 2000's
- b) The 80's
- c) 2050
- d) Late 1700's
- e) Late 1800's
- f) Early 1900's
- g) 5000

13) I would describe my friend group as...

- a) Very close and connected
- b) Fun and loud
- c) Small but perfect. It's just my best friend and I

d) Very large. I'm friends with everyone!

g) It depends on the day!

e) Quiet and reserved

f) Diverse and big

ANSWER KEY

Mostly A's- Mean Girls, Mostly B's- Beetlejuice, Mostly C's- Dear Evan Hansen, Mostly D's- Hamilton, Mostly E's- Phantom Of The Opera, Mostly F's- Wicked, Mostly G's- Hadestown

STO Update

Joie Stoefen, Troupe 739

Hi everyone. It's Joie Stoefen, back with plenty of exciting updates for you all! August was really busy, but I am thrilled to share all of the awesome things your State Thespian Officers have been up to!

Leadership Day was a smashing success! The event was held at the lovely South Tama High School, and over 100 students attended. Every workshop session was full of thespians who participated with enthusiasm- which we loved! The State Thespian Officers learned so much about our Iowa Thespian delegates and all the amazing things their schools are up to.



The STOs would like to send out a huge thank you to all those who attended 2019 Leadership Day. We love hearing about your experiences and what you learned!

Now that Leadership Day is officially over, we are gearing to gear up for Iowa Thespian Festival 2019! Our theme for festival this year is Time Warp! We are so thrilled to travel back to the past and go into the future with all of the Iowa Thespians. We chose this theme as a way to unify Iowa Thespians and their unique history. Iowa Thespians wouldn't be where they are today if it weren't for our founder's motivation to innovate the world of theatre, and we (the new generation of Iowa Thespians) continue to uphold their values today by exploring new ways to create a bright future for the Iowa Thespians to come! We also LOVE the decades- and who doesn't love a good decades theme?! It made perfect sense to blast off from space and fall into the time space continuum.



We are currently focusing on getting together all of our special projects that will be offered. Our famous Broadway Cares Flea Market will be returning, as well as a silent auction on personalized STO baskets! We are excited to soon announce some other fun things that will be up for grabs at festival- some of which are debuting at festival!

As always, make sure to check into our social media pages! Our instagram is @ia_thespiansto and twitter is @IA_ThespianSTO! We will be giving lots of updates and information about 2019 Iowa Thespian Festival. Your State Thespian Officers wish you the best of luck with the beginning of the school year, and hope to see you soon!

In Other News...

Tell us about your shows! We have a new form where anyone can send us information and posters for their troupe's productions. Find it at <https://tinyurl.com/iashowform> or posted to our Twitter and Instagram. Of course, you can still Direct Message us on social media about your shows or for any other information you need!

  Follow us on Twitter and Instagram @IA_ThespianSTO!

Visit us online at iowathespians.org



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