

This document is intended to be used in conjunction with the Official Rulebook and Evaluation Criteria, and not as a substitute for either. Download the Official Fine Arts Rulebook and the Evaluation Criteria at www.faf.ag.org/rules.cfm.

RAP

1. PURPOSE.

Your entry is a ministry presentation. Yes, you're in front of an audience but it's not about you or them. It's about the opportunity to glorify God with your gifts. It's an opportunity to connect an audience with a clear redemptive message.

2. GET THE MESSAGE OUT.

Simple and clear messages are enhanced with good flow and rhythm. Work on your vocabulary so you have the perfect words to keep the flow. Play with syllables to change how a word fits. Keep your rhythm steady and work with a beat that supports your lyrics.

3. BE YOURSELF.

Don't go overboard or try too hard to be cool or to look like a rapper. Be yourself and rhyme about what you feel and your experiences. Be real and present your entry from within your skill sets.

4. CHOOSE YOUR STYLE.

Present the style that suits you and your lyrics/message. Keep it consistent and make sure any transitions or combinations of styles transition and mesh well to avoid awkward moments.

5. IPOD/MP3 PLAYER.

Put your track on an iPod or an mp3 player. Putting a track on a CD isn't recommended because of the unreliability of various CD players.

6. SET UP/TEAR DOWN.

Take advantage of your FULL set-up time. According to the Fine Arts rules, you have 90 seconds to set up. Even if you think you're good, always do a sound check to make sure your track is at the volume you want it to be. Conduct a brief microphone check as well.

7. PRACTICE.

Spend an ample amount of time practicing your presentation. Work the kinks out and perfect your presentation. The more comfortable you are during your presentation the greater your impact will be. Perfect your rhyme and rhythm. Hold the mic steady and make sure you're not shouting into the mic to the point of distortion – if that happens, the message you're trying to communicate is weakened.

8. CROWD CONTROL.

Work to engage the audience from beginning to end. The hook and bridge need to be catchy. Also get a beat that matches your style and content. The tempo of your rap depends on what your lyrics are about. All of these elements will help engage and involve the crowd.

9. INTEGRITY.

Go about your business with integrity. If you're using a track from a well-known artist you should give credit to the person who made the track in the category of composer. Also if you include a sample from that track in your hook you should give credit in the composer category.

10. ACCEPT CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM.

The Fine Arts experience is intended to help you develop your skill set so you can be more effective when you are in ministry. Instead of seeing the feedback on your evaluation sheet as criticism, see it as constructive feedback and an evaluation of your skills not a personal judgment of you.