

## ***NC Young Playwrights Festival Middle and High School Rubric***

	<b>V</b>	<b>VI</b>	<b>III</b>	<b>II</b>	<b>I</b>
Dramatic Action	Intentions of characters drive the play and demand actions or responses to obstacles. The reader is compelled to turn the page.	A majority of the actions of the play result from characters working to achieve intentions and reacting to obstacles. The reader is engaged throughout.	Some of the actions of the play seem to be a result of character intentions and reaction to obstacles.	Few of the actions of the play seem connected to character intentions and/or obstacles.	The work does not seem driven by character needs and desires. Obstacles, if they exist seem contrived.
Plot	The sequence of events—from crisis through climax and resolution—effectively tells the story and continually increases audience expectations.	The sequence of events—from crisis through climax and resolution—tells the story and generally increases audience expectations.	A sequence of events—from crisis through climax and resolution—is intact. The story lacks cohesiveness.	The work lacks a clear structure and may be missing a crisis, a climax, and/or a resolution.	Events do not seem sequential, lacking a major crisis, climax, and resolution.
Character	Characters have unique voice, point of view, and clear and compelling intentions. Major characters are dynamic and change as a result of confronting obstacles.	A majority of characters have distinctive voice, point of view, and clear intentions. Major characters change as a result of confronting obstacles.	Some characters have distinct voice and point of view, as well as intentions. At least one character changes as a result of confronting obstacles.	Characters have little individuality of voice and intention. Changes in characters do not seem to be as a result of confronting obstacles.	Characters do not have unique voices and intentions. They do not change as a result of the events in the play.
Style	Language and stage image are used to powerful effect to tell this particular story. The work is inspired and original.	Language and stage image are used skillfully to tell this particular story. The work is original.	Language and stage image are generally effective in telling the story. The work is somewhat original.	Language and stage image are inconsistently employed to tell a story. The story is contrived and predictable.	Language does not effectively tell a story. The writer exhibits little understanding of stage image. The work is uninspired and derivative.

### **Definitions of Terms**

- Character is an entity with intent/objectives.
- Plot is a sequence of events in which a character faces a crisis that forces a response and sets the character on a journey towards climax and resolution. The character may achieve his ultimate objective, may be defeated in his goals, but in the process, is transformed.
- Voice in playwriting is dialogue that is expressive of a unique self or selves.
- Stage Image refers to the setting and visual elements that the playwright uses to create the world of the play.