

1. **Over the Time Limit:** Make note of the time allowed for your performance and any setup of equipment.
2. **Wrong Category:** Many categories are similar, be sure you have entered in the proper category for your talent.
3. **Improper Selection:** There are guidelines about which musical selections can be used. Refer to your guidelines ensure you are in compliance.
4. **Improper Selection (talent based)** If you choose a song because you like to sing along with it when it's on the radio, you will likely not get the score you were hoping for. Select a piece because it allows you to demonstrate your talent.
5. **Copyright Violation:** Be sure you have followed all of the instructions to comply with the copyright laws.

Evaluators use the guidelines provided by the national Fine Arts department. These are available free online at www.sdyce.com/faf.

Most of the common mistakes can be avoided if the entrants take the time to understand all of the rules for each entry. Each year has a selection of rule changes. Be sure to review these as listed in the front of each rulebook.

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AVOID COMMON MISTAKES