

## How to Read Your Recap

By Christine Clayton

As instructors there are typically two questions that spring to mind when you are handed your recap: #1 “Where did we place?” and #2 “What was our score?” While these are two very important pieces of information, there is quite a bit more information you can get out of your recap if you look more closely.

### **Sub captions**

Your sub captions scores can give you some of the most illuminating information about your color guard. Study them carefully and keep the following things in mind:

- **Box Placement** – Read the back of the sheet and familiarize yourself with the wording in each box on each sheet. Look at your sub caption numbers and see which box they fall into and where in the box they land. This is especially important for “A” guards in Movement and Equipment when the spread between the sub captions is less clear.
- **Spread Between Sub captions** – The difference between your first sub caption number and your second can speak volumes. Judges are trained to closely pay attention to the spread between these two numbers and they are giving you specific information when they write those numbers down. *Note: these guidelines only apply to Regional “A”, Open, World and the upstairs captions for Scholastic “A”.*
  - Excellence/Performance over Vocabulary/Composition/Repertoire tells you the guard is achieving beyond the level of the show.
  - Equal Excellence/Performance and Vocabulary/Composition/Repertoire tells you the guard is achieving their show.
  - Excellence/Performance two-three tenths down from Vocabulary/Composition/Repertoire tells the guard they are close to achieving their show.
  - Excellence/Performance four-six tenths down from Vocabulary/Composition/Repertoire tells you the guard has achievement issues but may eventually achieve their show.
  - Excellence/Performance seven-tenths to one point down from Vocabulary/Composition/Repertoire tells you that achievement at any point during the season is a concern.
- **Sub Caption Profiling** – This is what judges call it when they have one guard higher in the first box than the 2<sup>nd</sup> guard but the 2<sup>nd</sup> guard higher in the second box. This is best illustrated with an example:

	Vocabulary	Excellence	Total
Guard “A”	66	60	126
Guard “B”	64	63	127

This tells Guard “A” that their written vocabulary is “broader” than Guard “B” but Guard “B” is achieving what they have at a higher level.

## Bottom Line Score

Your bottom line scores both per caption and overall can give you more info than simply where you placed. Take a look at how close you are to your competitors in each caption and overall. Judges use something called “neighborhoods” to rank color guards. The basic definition of this is as follows:

- 1-3 tenths**      The guards are very comparable. They could set up again and the results could be easily reversed. They are close neighbors.
  
- 4-6 tenths**      The guards are reasonably comparable with some minor differences. They are still in the same neighborhood.
  
- 7-9 tenths**      The guards have some definitive differences between them. They could set up again and the results would probably not change. They could, however, still be distant neighbors.
  
- 1 point +**        The guards have significant differences between them. They are not neighbors.

For example, Guard “B” has beaten Guard “A” in the last three contests. However, this week Guard “A” comes out on top. Guard “B” will likely be concerned but if they stop and notice that in each of the last three contests they only won by two-tenths they would realize that the judges were telling them they were very competitive with Guard “A” and these results could change. Remember, contest dynamics – who had the better performance *that* day - plays a major part in scoring.

We realize that some of this information is very technical in nature but we hope that you will consider some of it the next time you look at your recap and evaluate both the ranking and rating of your performance. As always, if you have any questions about this information, please feel free to contact the Director of Membership Education, Christine Clayton at [cclayton@wgasc.org](mailto:cclayton@wgasc.org).