

## REFERENCE GUIDE – The Discovery Awards, 2024

**Nominee Topic Response Video:** The Nominee’s Topic Response Video is an opportunity for each student to showcase their background, interests, and personality by responding to several questions in an interview style video. Please see the link below for the list of interview questions. The nominee should answer all the questions, in complete sentences, and include the question in their answers (ex. The answer to the question “What is your name?” would be “My name is Erin Coffey.”). *Please note: Selections from Topic Response Videos may be used in the Jimmy Awards ceremony presentation. Please be sure interviewer does not speak over or overlap with Nominee responses.*

### Interview Questions:

1. Tell us your name, regional program, age, and grade level.
2. What do you love about musical theatre?
3. Describe the first time you performed on stage or your favorite memory of performing in front of an audience. How did that experience make you feel?
4. Why did you choose your solo song for the Preliminary Audition? What does it mean to you?
5. What is one challenge in your life that you’ve overcome which has helped enhance your performance on stage?
6. What is something you are passionate about besides theatre?
7. What is something that most people would be surprised to know about you?
8. What are you most looking forward to learning or experiencing during Jimmys Week?

### Topic Response Video Filming Instructions and Tips:

- Set up cameras and lighting as demonstrated in the first video on the next page. *Note that the video uses professional video camera and lighting equipment, but the same set-up will work with a good/new smartphone and a ring or clip light.*
- Recruit a family member or friend to ask the questions. The “interviewer” should be positioned just off camera, at lens level.
- The nominee should make eye contact with the interviewer and deliver answers directly to them. It is best to avoid looking directly at the camera. Be sure to include a pause before and after the answers to ensure the interviewer does not overlap with the nominee’s answers.
- Frame the shot so it is about chest up with a little room above the nominee’s head. When in doubt, err on the side of a wider frame.
- External microphones are great if available (though not necessary), but they should not be held in the nominee’s hand. Any microphone used should be either attached to the nominee’s body (if a lavalier) or placed just out of frame.
- Record a test and play it back to make sure everything looks great.

## VIDEO FILMING GUIDELINES

The following filming guidelines and recommendations apply to all videos that may be submitted to the Jimmy Awards including the Nominee's Topic Response Video.

- The background for all videos should be solid with basic lighting (nothing distracting or artistic).
- Nominee should wear basic clothing and hair (nothing distracting).
- Chyrons and/or significant video production are not necessary or recommended.
- We ask that you submit all videos digitally in one of the following YouTube acceptable formats:
  - .MOV
  - .MPEG4
  - .MP4
  - .AVI
  - .WMV
  - .MPEGPS
  - .FLV
  - 3GPP
  - WebM
  - DNxHR
  - ProRes
  - CineForm
  - HEVC (h265)
  
- Additional information about YouTube acceptable formats is available at: <http://support.google.com/youtube/bin/answer.py?hl=en&answer=55744>
- To ensure the best viewing of nominees' performances, send the highest quality recording possible.
- All video footage and photos may be used during the course of the NHSMTA program and events, including, but not limited to inclusion in press releases, marketing information, websites and social media, and the Jimmy Awards ceremony presentation.
- Camera and lighting setup video available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7xHNqG54Bpg>
- All submissions become the property of the Jimmy Awards/NHSMTA and will not be returned.

**Dressy Outfits:** Formal outfit(s) to be worn on stage in the Opening and Closing Numbers as well as at the After-Party immediately following the ceremony. Possible options are listed in the pages that follow.

**Dressy Outfits Filming Instructions:** Must be MP4 format. Wearing your dressy outfit, record your full self and complete one full turn to show all sides of outfit for approval.

When packing your dressy outfit(s), please keep in mind that the opening number is very physical. You will be dancing, bending over, and sometimes squatting, and you will need to be comfortable, as well as appropriately covered and supported. For lighting purposes, please also avoid shiny/shimmery fabrics.

**All Nominees are required to bring at least one of the following options:**

- Black suit, black dress pants, or black dress skirt with:
  - 2 contrasting, collared, button-down dress shirts OR blouses – one black and one vibrantly colored (solid colors only, please)
  - (Optional) Tie, standard tie or bow tie – solid black
  - (Optional) Vest, suspenders, or suit jacket – solid black
- Knee-length black dress
  - **No mini-skirts or mid-thigh length dresses**
  - Wrap style tops must be secured or sewn closed
  - (Optional) Black spanks or trunks
- Dressy black jumpsuit
- Shoes & Accessories
  - Black dress shoes of choice (character shoes, heels, dress shoes, etc.)
  - Black socks, if applicable to shoe choice
  - (Optional) 2 – 3 inch black character shoes, link to options [HERE](#)
  - (Optional) Skin tone tights – link to options [HERE](#)

**Optional – Nominees may choose to bring one of the following options *in addition to at least one option from the list above:***

- Knee-length dress in a solid color other than black
  - **No mini-skirts or mid-thigh length dresses**
  - Wrap style tops must be secured or sewn closed
  - (Optional) Black spanks or trunks
- Dressy jumpsuit in a solid color other than black
- Shoes & Accessories
  - Colorful accessory such as a belt, vest, etc.
  - 2 – 3 inch skin tone character shoes, link to options [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)

See next page for examples of approved Dress Outfits. We and The Jimmy Awards reserve the right to request outfit change(s).

## EXAMPLES OF APPROVED DRESSY OUTFITS

