

## Discussion Mentor Questions & Guidelines

In keeping with our mission “to enhance, celebrate, and recognize” high school theatre, we need to continue to foster a positive discussion in the Cappie room. The first chance that a Cappie gets to celebrate a show is in the Cappie room. We need your help to keep this discussion as focused and up-beat as possible.

Some ways to keep it positive:

1. You are the theatre authority in the room. Come prepared, having researched the show.
  - Read the script, watch excerpts on Youtube, read reviews of the show
  - Know the plot, characters, etc.--- will the students be confused at all?
  - How was the show originally received?--- this will give an idea as to how the students will perceive the show.
2. We will continue the favorite moment activity. Use this to help drive the positive aspects of the show during intermission and post show discussion.
3. Use only positive questions in the conversation:
  - Overall, what is going well?
  - What are you enjoying about the show? Favorite moments?
  - Are any actors doing a great job? Crews?
4. Avoid the negative:
  - Do not ask: “what is going wrong?” or “what is not going so well?”--- this only encourages students to find the negative.
  - If you do feel that the show struggling in some aspects, ask “What challenges do you think this cast and crew faced when mounting this production?”---- the answers to this question should stay broad and general (rehearsal time, poor script, space, show difficulty, budget, etc.) If the conversation starts picking on specific actors, divert the conversation.
5. When selecting actors for critics choices:
  - Ask for options for the category.
  - Ask for one or two students to explain why they feel that a specific student should be chosen. Then move on to the next option.
  - Do not ask students to say reasons for NOT choosing a student.
6. Remind the students that they should not say anything in the Cappie room or write anything in a review that they would not feel comfortable saying to the cast, crew, or individual face to face.