



## 25/26 Technical Theater Competition

Date: Feb. 20, 2026

Time: 8:00am-3:30pm

Location: San Bernardino Valley College

### **Competition Description**

What is Tech Wars? Students compete in teams, creating all of the design elements for a literary novel turned into a live stage show. As a culmination to the wars, teams will present to professionals from the theater world in hopes of earning awards for:

#### **Awards:**

*Best Makeup*

*Best Costume*

*Best Set Design*

*Best Lights*

*Best Sound*

*Best Marketing/Promotion*

*Best Whole Technical Group*

**\*School performance schedule will be provided on day of competition at check-in\***

### **Competition Timeline (tentative schedule)**

- Day of competition
  - 7:30 – 8:00 am - Teams arrive (registration)
  - 8:00 – 8:30 am – Welcome (SBVC & CSUSB)
  - 8:30 –10:30 am - Competition PPT Presentation Start
    - Block 1: 8:30 - 9:30 am
    - Block 2: 9:30 – 10:30 am
  - 10:30 am – 12:45pm Rehearsal preparation (Stage manager to sign up after Welcome)
    - (Lunch provided by WSBCSS @ 12)
  - 1:00 pm – 2:20pm Whole Technical Group Presentations begin
  - 2:30 pm - Awards
  - 3:15p m – Dismissal / Load buses

### **Presentation Details**

- Each team will create a presentation for the competition challenge(s) they registered for (see criteria details below).
- Teams of up to 10 students (limit 10 students total per group)

- Teams have 5 minutes to present to judges. Teams will present their PPT describing challenge, plus allow 3-5 minutes to answer questions from the judges if needed.

## **2026 Challenge Theme**

### FRANKENSTEIN

*Our producers are planning to mount a Broadway production of FRANKENSTEIN based on the 1931 classic film which featured Boris Karloff. The stage play will offer a familiar story and a visual style that will appeal and excite the whole family. You may use the original novel by Mary Shelley for additional insights. Designs should be grounded between 1820-1920.*

## **Provided Equipment**

Area mics  
Tech support  
Sound tech

## **Equipment Schools Need to Bring**

Stage makeup kit  
Student Laptops for presentations (*We strongly advise digital materials be uploaded to thumb drives to present*)  
Costume items/ props prepared at school site

# **Competition Challenges**

## **Makeup Challenge Criteria**

- a. Your group will choose a character from the show and create a Makeup design Mood Board (using Canva, Google slides, etc.)

Include the following on your mood board (create on Canva or other presentation platform):

- A brief description of the character you have chosen and what characteristics you hope to emphasize in your design.
- Research – This could be a collage- showing ideas or references for the character for your make up design.
- A Make Up Plot to include the following info:
  - Foundation color (label and include a swatch)
  - Eye shadow color/colors (label and include a swatch)
  - Highlight/Detail colors (label, give specifics and a swatch)
  - Lip Color (Label and a swatch)

- Hair (picture of style, swatch if it is going to be a different color than the image)
- Somewhere on your mood board indicate if it is straight makeup or character makeup.
- Apply one of the makeup designs on a performer in your group and take a before and after photo.
- Prepare a **3-4 minute oral presentation to provide an overview of your design**

### **Costume Challenge Criteria**

- b. Create a design mood board that has the following:
- A brief description of the character and what characteristics you hope to emphasize in your design.
  - Research – This could be a collage- showing ideas or references for the character for your costume design.
  - A rendering or sketch (details about size and materials to be announced) showing Clothing items that will make up the costumes (please put color swatches by each picture for each costume piece).
  - Clothing items that will make up the costumes (please put color swatches by each picture for each costume piece). All costumes must be adjusted to fit the theme that your group is working with. Give this show a unique and new look!
  - Research for 2 accessories (props, jewelry, bag, hat, etc) You may Dress a minimum of one performer in one of your costume designs.
  - Prepare a **3-4 minute oral presentation to provide an overview of your design**

### **Marketing/Promotion Challenge Criteria**

a. Your group will create a Publicity- Style Board (using Canva, Google Slides, etc.) that has the following:

- Research – Background information about your production that informs your choices.
- A poster (using Canva or another design platform) to promote the show. Your poster must have the following elements
  - SBCSS Theatre Department Proudly Presents . . .
  - Show title
  - A quote from or for the show
  - Show Dates and Times
  - Ticket Prices
  - An image that will attract attention of potential audience members
  - Your group hashtag

c. An Instagram post (using Canva or another platform). Your post should contain the same info as the poster, and each post should be unique. On the presentation slide for this section, please do the following:

- Include the image for the post
- In a text box, type out what the post would say on Instagram
- Prepare a **3-4 minute oral presentation to provide an overview of your design**

## **Set Design Challenge Criteria**

- d. create a Scenic design Style Board (using Canva, Google Slides, etc.) that has the following:
- A Brief description of the scene from the project you have chosen to create.
  - Research- Background information about your production that informs your choices. Especially, time period, location etc.
  - A set model- Create a ¼" scale model set using posterboard or similar material on a base no larger than 16" x 22" inches. This play will take place on a proscenium stage. There is NO FLY SYSTEM.
  - Prepare a **3-4 minute oral presentation to provide an overview of your design**

## **Light and Sound Challenge Criteria**

e. **Lighting Designers:** Your group will create a Lighting Design Mood Board (using Canva, Google Slides, etc.) that has the following:

- Research- Background information about your production that informs your choices. Especially, time period, location etc.
- Develop a light plot for the scene presented in the Scenic Design.
- Prepare a **3-4 minute oral presentation to provide an overview of your design**

a. **Sound Designers:** Your group will create a Sound design Mood Board (using Canva, Google Slides, etc.) that has the following:

- Research- Background information about your production that informs your choices. Especially, time period, location etc.
- create a 30-second soundtrack that brings to life the sounds that would be present in the play. Layer as many sounds as possible to create a believable sound environment.
- The sound must have layers and must be created by you; it should not be a track from YouTube. Import your sound file on your presentation slide. Screenshot your SoundTrap file and post it as a separate google slide.
- Prepare a **3-4 minute oral presentation to provide an overview of your design**

## **Whole Technical Group Presentation Criteria (10 min max)**

- The Stage Manager will present the production as a complete technical concept, highlighting how all design elements work together to support the story of Frankenstein. This presentation is intended to demonstrate cohesion, communication, and overall technical vision, not performance.

- i. The Stage Manager should guide the judges through how each technical area contributes to the production as a whole:
1. *Makeup*
  2. *Costume*
  3. *Set Design*
  4. *Lights*
  5. *Sound*
  6. *Marketing/Promotion*

Each technical lead may briefly speak to their area as part of the presentation, but the Stage Manager should oversee the flow and ensure the presentation feels unified and intentional. This is a prepared presentation that should demonstrate to the producer/director /judges the stage worthiness of your design concept.

**Important Notes:**

- No song or live performance is required for this portion.
- The focus is on **technical design choices, coordination, and storytelling**, not acting or performance.
- Scoring is based solely on the **technical theater elements**, research and storytelling.

## Stagecraft Competition Rubric (60 Points Total)

Challenge	Excellent (9–10 pts)	Proficient (7–8 pts)	Basic (4–6 pts)	Needs Improvement (0–3 pts)	Score	Notes
<b>Lighting Setup</b>	Lights accurately placed, cues followed perfectly, excellent focus and effect	Minor placement or cue issues, good overall effect	Noticeable errors, limited focus/consistency	Major errors, incomplete setup, poor effect		
<b>Stage Design &amp; Construction</b>	Creative, structurally sound, meets all specifications, professional finish	Mostly creative, minor structural or specification issues	Some creativity, structural weaknesses, partial adherence	Lacks creativity, unsafe or incomplete construction		
<b>Audio / Sound Design</b>	Clear, balanced audio, cues executed flawlessly, excellent overall quality	Minor sound issues or delayed cues, good overall quality	Several sound issues, inconsistent quality	Poor sound setup, cues missing, hard to hear		
<b>Makeup</b>	Creative, precise, professional finish, complements performance	Minor issues in execution or consistency	Noticeable errors, limited creativity	Poor application, incomplete, or unprofessional		
<b>Costume (Props/Costume)</b>	Innovative, well-constructed, safe, enhances overall production	Mostly well-made, minor issues, functional	Some creativity, structural weaknesses, partially functional	Poorly made, unsafe, or incomplete		
<b>Marketing/Promotion</b>	Clear, engaging, professional presentation, effectively communicates concept	Minor clarity or design issues, mostly professional	Somewhat unclear or incomplete, limited engagement	Unclear, incomplete, or unprofessional		
<b>Whole Technical Group Presentation</b>	Stage Manager presents a clear, cohesive technical vision for the entire production. All design areas (makeup, costume, set, lighting, sound, marketing) are intentionally connected and clearly support the story of the show. Presentation is well-organized, professional, and demonstrates strong collaboration and leadership.	Stage Manager presents a mostly cohesive overview of the production. Most technical areas are clearly explained and connected to the overall concept, with minor gaps in clarity, flow, or integration between elements.	Presentation covers technical areas but lacks cohesion or clear connections between design elements. Roles are unevenly presented, or the overall production vision is unclear or loosely explained.	Presentation is disorganized, incomplete, or lacks a clear technical vision. Limited explanation of how design elements work together, or the Stage Manager does not effectively guide the presentation.		

