

# THE ORAL CRITIQUE REFERENCE GUIDE

RELAX!

## INTRODUCTION

State Team Name  
Class/Division  
Your Name  
Competition/Date  
Describe where you are sitting

## BE ORGANIZED

## BRING DIGITAL AUDIO RECORDER AND EXTRA BATTERIES

SEMDTA recorders have extra batteries in the blue recorder case

## RECORDER

After recording the first team's introduction, check recorder to be sure it is working.  
Check your recorder periodically during the competition.  
If a team has an issue and stops their drill, at an appropriate time, pause your recorder.

## SPEAK CLEARLY

## USE YOUR ORAL CRITIQUE AS A SCORING CRUTCH

## ENTRANCE

Describe your first impression

## KNOW MANEUVERS

Study maneuvers in manuals and videos.  
Describe maneuvers and where they work and where there are issues. Do not just say what the maneuver is. Be specific (describe horse).

## SCORE SHEET

Know your score sheet.  
Refer to the score sheet categories in your comments.  
Comment on music, horses, horsemanship, uniforms, theme, attitudes, etc. at the end of the ride or if there is a slow or repetitive time in the drill.  
Be specific on problem areas, for example: "The chestnut horse in the second pair is lagging behind" or "The spacing on the fourth pair from the front is too long when compared to the rest of the team."  
Limit suggestions.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Be sure to speak of positive points. EVERY team has them!