

Competition Tips - COLD READ

The cold read competition is essentially an audition for a scene. Actors will be standing on a mark, approximately 5 feet away from the camera, and standing next to the camera will be an actor hired by IMTA to perform with each contestant.

In this competition you have two jobs, "acting" and "reacting." When you are speaking, you are acting - your thoughts are coming out of your mouth in the form of words. So when you are speaking, the viewer knows what you are thinking. However the camera is on YOU the whole time. So it is even more important that we know what you're thinking when you are not speaking. So "react". SHOW what you are thinking - with hand gestures, body language, facial expressions, reaction sounds, etc. Make sure the viewer knows what you're thinking when you are not talking, as well as when you are talking. And be sure to be OFF SCRIPT while your scene partner is talking. Look at them, listen to them, and react to them while they are talking. If you need to glance at your script, do so when it is YOUR character's turn to talk. Remember the camera is on you the whole time, so don't let the agents and audience see you reading. They should always see you acting and reacting.

And remember, just because everybody in your category will have the same script, does not mean that you have to perform the same scene. Make unique choices and take chances and you can make your scene different from everyone else's!