

The Audies Judging Process

Round A: This is a qualifying round for some categories in which experienced judges listen to samples of each audiobook to narrow the lists in high-submission categories in preparation for Round 1. Judges listen to at least 30 minutes of the audiobook before a “no” vote is given. Several judges’ combined votes determine which titles move on to Round 1.

In **Round 1**, judges are asked to rank their top seven titles. This is an opportunity to elevate the best the category has to offer. Note: there are two waves for **Round 1**: wave 1 to be delivered in early October, and wave 2 in mid-November (titles are added to existing Audible libraries, and judges are notified by email). For **Round 1**, judging survey links are sent in mid-November and responses are due in early January.

Round 2, the finalist round, takes place from mid-January through mid-February. Judges score their assigned titles in four areas: performance, direction, production, and content.

For Round 1 and Round 2 responses, space is provided for judges’ comments – we’re asking for constructive criticism that might be helpful to the publisher and to the Competition Chair. See page 3 for good examples of constructive criticism, positive and negative.

The Audies Judging Criteria

1. Performance

- Narrator presents a professional performance that is believable and convincing
- Characters are clearly and consistently differentiated through tone, inflection, pacing, etc., avoiding condescending mannerisms and style
- Narrator accurately pronounces all words, including proper nouns, place names, character names, and technical and foreign words and phrases, to the best of the judge’s knowledge

2. Direction

- Pace is maintained throughout and the plot flows without interruption
- If used, music and/or sound effects are a positive enhancement, not a distraction
- The material lends itself to audio presentation/ presentation enhances the text

3. Production

- Recording is free of blatant edits and technical flaws and is of good quality
- Signal, voice, and music levels are conducive to audiobook listening conditions
- Multi-voice or dramatized productions effectively project the original print material

4. Content/Overall

- The underlying content is excellent, and appropriate for the audio format
- All elements have been integrated to provide a compelling listening experience