



WHERE WE ALIGN
January 2026

SESSION OBJECTIVES

- Cross collaboration with colleagues in different captions
- Discuss and share how we speak to common terminology through our caption lenses
- Discuss how we approach specific challenges through our caption lenses
- Explore the benefits of exploring a second caption
- Introduce Accountability System



OUR SHARED VOCABULARY

- Discuss the term with your partner(s):
RANGE/VARIETY, RISK, QUALITY, STYLE, DYNAMICS, EXCELLENCE, CRAFTSMANSHIP
- What does it mean to you?
How do you speak to it?
Where do you and your partner align?
Are there differences?
- Briefly report out (approximately one minute)



DIFFERENT CAPTIONS

SIMILAR CHALLENGES

- You and your partner will be assigned to one of the following discussion topics:
 - *Speaking to the Unfamiliar*
 - *When a POC is MIA*
 - *Delivering Difficult News*
 - *“How” over “What”*
 - *Innovation and Creativity*
 - *Build Up vs. Tear Down*
- Discuss your approach with one another
- Be prepared to report to the group



EXPLORING A SECOND CAPTION

- Formally or Informally
- Direction of Exploration
- Testimonials
(Kitchenman, Wingate, McCourt)



ACCOUNTABILITY FOR 2026 (Handout)

- Intent
- How do you stay current?
- Contact with partner following contest
- Contact with your manager thereafter
- Have you updated your Bio?





EXPLORING A SECOND CAPTION

“By stepping downstairs, I’ve built a real “zoom-in” muscle, an ability to appreciate the nuance and skill embedded in the movement and equipment books. It’s helped me more clearly recognize and credit the design choices coming from both the body and equipment perspectives, and to better identify true levels of challenge so the reward matches what’s actually being asked and achieved. That broader lens also lets me reward performers for the full, holistic demand of the program, not just what’s happening in staging, but the layered achievement within it.”

Travis Wingate





EXPLORING A SECOND CAPTION

“To zoom in is much different than zooming out. It inherently gave me a deeper appreciation of the intricacies of equipment handling, layered responsibilities, and choreographic challenges over time. All of which are considered in DA and GE yet with the ability to sit lower and engage in the complexity of Equipment with a focused lens. In addition, there is the absence of why or how a choice is made sans soundtrack consideration, other than the impact of pulse (or lack of). I find this refreshing and very supportive and insightful to my evaluation in the "upstairs" captions.”

Eric Kitchenman





EXPLORING A SECOND CAPTION

The greatest benefit I've gained is a deeper awareness of everything the performers are being asked to accomplish in any given moment. Moving between upstairs and downstairs throughout the day pushes me to work harder at shifting my perspective so I can cover the full caption, and it has strengthened my discipline in maintaining the key points of comparison for each caption. While I prefer to stay focused on the overall GE journey, my time downstairs provides a valuable reminder of the leaps, jumps, and turns that make that journey possible.

Meghan McCourt





THANK YOU!