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- **Principle 1:** The primary responsibility of the judge is to rate and rank the units - both in the separate sub-captions and in the total score of the specific sheet. Ties may occur on occasion in the sub-captions, but any ties of the Overall Total Score must be carefully analyzed for accuracy and usefulness. Adhere to [The Value of the Tenth](#) when deciding Overall Total Score of the caption.
 - **Principle 2:** The judge should utilize the system based on the bottom third, middle third and top third of each of the boxes. Those locations help give meaning to any number. When considering Box movement, meeting two or three of the criteria allows for consideration of movement into Box 3-4 and Box 5. Refer to [Box Placement in Thirds](#).
 - **Principle 3:** The list of components for each sub-caption is not meant as a checklist. The overall meaning is derived from the depth of knowledge of the caption, from the understanding of the standards of the activity and from the understanding that the score is the result of the sum on the components.
 - **Principle 4:** Each sub-caption is always a combination to some extent of the “what” and the “how.” Nevertheless, the decisions in each sub-caption must be independently considered.
 - **Principle 5:** Impression-Analysis-Comparison is a tool for the judges to use in order to decide a box range and position within the box (thirds) and the relative score for any unit in the contest (rating).