

Setting: Christmas Academy TV Show Final Competition

Story: It is the Final Competition of Christmas Academy. Three groups compete to represent the true meaning of Christmas for a special prize. Each group competes by doing three things:

1. Re-write and sing “The 12 Days of Christmas”
2. Christmas song with their theme, teaching audience to sing along
3. Act out a skit

Judges give comments throughout on ability, interest and accuracy of meaning of Christmas.

Group 1: Parties and food (song: “We Wish You a Merry Christmas”)

Group 2: Decorations, perfection (song: “Deck the Halls”)

Group 3: Santa Claus, gift-getting (song: “Santa Claus is Coming to Town”)

After groups compete, someone breaks into the action, appalled and frustrated. Explains the biblical meaning of Christmas, a love given by God in sending baby son to Earth, that we can then share with friends and family. We celebrate to give thanks for His love each year at Christmastime. Jesus is the only thing we need at Christmas and all year long; the undeserved gift of love and forgiveness for everyone.

One from each group steps out in agreement, describing that their idea of Christmas has been 1) unfulfilling, 2) too much work dependent on them for happiness, 3) too unreal; doesn't mean much except fun.

Final scene: ‘Someone’ suggests song about true meaning – “Silent Night” – light candles and cast lines up across stage. Go out of auditorium singing “Joy to the World” and interacting with audience.

Christmas Academy

Host: Hello everyone, and welcome to the final round of Christmas Academy. I'm your host, Wink Funkleberry. Tonight we have three groups which will compete with each other for the title of World's Most Christmas-Spirited People. They will compete against each other to represent the Christmas spirit in three categories. But before we get to the competition, let's meet the judges.

(Host introduces three judges. Judges are welcome to come up with unique personalities and quirks. Could be ghost of Christmas present, Frosty the Snowman, anything.)

Host: And now, let's meet the contestants! Group number one is the Partiers! (Host walks over and speaks with each of them, asking questions like their name and where they are from. Suggestions for characters in this group include someone always trying to get others under the mistletoe, someone drinking more and more egg nog over the course of the play). And what does Christmas mean to you guys?

Group 1: It's all about partying and having a good time with your friends, Wink.

Host: All right! Over here we have Group number two, the Decorators! (Again, host talks with each of them, asking vague personal questions. Some possible characters: compulsive decorator who is paranoid about neighbors' decorations, compulsive hostess, someone looking for perfect tree, wrapping paper, etc.) What's the most important thing about Christmas for you?

Group 2: Getting everything just right – the decorations, the wrapping paper, the food, the snowman in the front yard. . .

Host: And finally we have Group number three, Santa's Little Helpers! (Host chats. Suggestions: someone working on ever-growing Christmas list, someone always dropping hints about what he/she wants, someone who has always wanted to go to the North Pole and work as an elf, etc.) And what is the meaning of Christmas?

Group 3: Getting presents from Santa Claus. Or whoever gives us presents, we're not picky.

Host: Now that we've met our contestants, it's time for the competition to begin. In the first round, each group will have to re-write the classic Christmas song, "The 12 Days of Christmas." Instead of the original words, each group will sing about the things that they wish their true love would *really* give them. The judges will grade you on ability, creativity, and accuracy about the meaning of Christmas. This round we will start with Group number 1, the Partiers!

(Group 1 sings about things that are important to people who party all the time. It is not necessary to sing about things that you want your true love to give you; each group may sing about something different, e.g. "The Things at Christmas That Are a Pain to Me" or "The Things at Christmas that Make a Great Party" or "The Things at Christmas I Want Given to Me." They may act out the things that they are singing about, draw the things they sing about on pieces of paper and hold them up; anything they want.)

Host: Thank you very much! Now, let's see what the judges thought of that. Judges?

(Judges give marks and make comments. One is the ability judge, one the creativity judge, and one the meaning judge.)

Host: OK! Now it's time for Group number two, the Decorators!

(Same thing that Group 1 did, except it's Group 2 doing it this time.)

Host: Judges?

(Judges give marks and comments)

Host: And last but not least, Group Number 3!

(Group 3 performs to wild and prolonged applause, if merited)

Host: Judges, what do you have to say to that?

(Judges say what they have to say)

Host: Thank you! So, after the first round, Group 1 has X points, Group 2 has Y points, and Group 3 has Z. Now it's time for the second round, where the groups will sing a song that represents the meaning of Christmas to them! But they can't do it alone; we need you in the audience to help out too. This time, we will start with Group 2, singing "Deck the Halls." Take it away, Group 2!

(Group 2 teaches "Deck the Halls" to audience.)

Host: Judges?

(Judges give marks, comments)

Host: Now it's time for Group 3! They will be doing their own version of "Santa Claus is Coming to Town."

(Group 3 performs song)

Host: Well I know that brought ME to tears. But what did the judges think?

(Judges give marks, comments)

Host: Thank you. And now, Group 1 will sing "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

(Group 1 performs)

Host: Wowee! Crazy! Judges?

(Judges again give marks, comments)

Host: So after two rounds, it's Group 1 with X, Group 2 with Y, and Group 3 with Z. Now it's time for our third and final round. I'm nervous; I can only imagine what our contestants must be feeling right now. In this final round, each group will perform a skit which represents the true meaning of Christmas. Group 3 will go first this time.

(Group 3 performs a skit glorifying avarice. Maybe someone who is greedy ends up happy and fulfilled. Or a child gets angry at a parent for telling her that part of celebrating Christmas is unselfishness. Then Santa comes in with lots of gifts and says, "No, your parents are wrong. Christmas is really all about you." Plenty of options.)

Host: And what do the judges have to say for themselves?

(Judges give marks, comments)

Host: Now Group 1 gets their time to shine.

(Group 1 performs skit in which partying is the chief goal. Maybe a nativity scene in which the wise men show up with drinks and snacks.)

Host: Thanks very much for that lovely display! Judges?

(Judges. Marks. Comments.)

Host: And now it's time for our final group, Group 2!

(Group 2 performs skit about decorations. Maybe a parent and child. Child asks, with big eyes and perhaps a lisp, "Mommy, why do we celebrate Christmas?" and mother responds, "So we can make everything look right. Now help me bake cookies and maybe I'll let you eat the ones that don't turn out." Child enthusiastically agrees.)

Host: Thanks. And now it's the moment we've all been waiting for, when the judges make their final tally. Judges, are you ready?

(Before judges can respond, someone – it could be someone who does not have another part, or even the "meaning of Christmas" judge herself – breaks in, appalled and frustrated. She stands in the center of the stage, with everyone looking at her)

Somebody: All of you are wrong! This isn't what Christmas is about. It's about love; God's love. He loved the world so much that he sent his son, and we celebrate that love every year at Christmas. Jesus is all we need at Christmas and all year; his undeserved love for everyone is the reason why we celebrate.

(Everyone is quiet for a moment, and then a member from each group steps out one by one to agree and admit that they were wrong about the meaning of Christmas)

Group 1: You're right. Christmas isn't about parties. They're fun when they're going on, but the next day, and after the Christmas season, I always feel let down. They aren't fulfilling, like the stuff that you're talking about.

Group 2: I agree. There's too much pressure on me every year to keep decorating in bigger and better ways. I couldn't keep it up forever, and if what you're saying is true, then I don't have to.

Group 3: Me too. The things that I get for Christmas always break eventually. And no matter how much I get, I always want more. Maybe it's better to give stuff than to get it.

(general sounds of agreement from everyone onstage)

Host: Well, it looks like we won't be giving out any prizes tonight. But we've found the true meaning of Christmas even if nobody wins this competition.

Somebody: Why don't we sing a song about the true meaning of Christmas?

(Everybody sings "Silent Night," lines up at front of the stage, using candles if available. Then, leave auditorium singing "Joy to the World.")