

Does the opening number matter to my score?*

You're preparing for all of the parts of competition – Red Carpet, interview, onstage question and talent. But how important is my performance in the Opening Number?

Don't worry! This isn't part of your pageant score. However, while this isn't scored, that doesn't mean you shouldn't put effort into it. This is the judges chance to really watch you when you're *not* competing. They see how you interact with others, your confidence level, how much fun you're having, how invested you are to the process, etc.

Keep these tips in mind when you're about to hit the stage for opening number, during the prelim awards announcement at the end of each prelim, etc.:

1. *This is a great opportunity for the judges to see your personality onstage.*
2. Remember to keep your "A-game" going strong even though it's not a part of your score. Be confident!
3. *Smile* - We get it - you're probably exhausted and your feet are ready to actually fall off your body and you've never been more ready for a pizza. Keep on showing that bright, beautiful smile.
4. *Have fun* - Have you ever watched a show before? Are you drawn to the people just doing their role or **do you love watching the people fully invested in it?** You know the answer.

So have fun with it while you're onstage. Go all out, hit the stage and be ready to rock out to the music.

**excerpts from an article in Pageant Daily*