

Prose and Poetry For Novice

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[UIL Oral Interp Link](#)

What is Prose & Poetry

[Introduction to what is prose and poetry](#)

Prose - presentation of materials from short story, novels, and nonfiction

Poetry - presentation of materials from poetry of all kinds.

Basic Terminology

Selection- the piece a speaker creates to perform. Selections must follow the guidelines of the category.

Category - The rules and regulation for a selection. In UIL, Prose has 2 categories and Poetry has two categories.

Binder- The small black book speakers place their manuscript in to perform.

Slick Sheets- The plastic protectors that speakers place their selections in.

Manuscript- The actual selection - it is usually typed and marked and highlighted.

Introduction - Speaker creates the introduction. It should introduce the selection.

Teaser- This technique is when the interpreter begins the performance by reading a brief excerpt from the actual text they've selected, stops to deliver their original introduction, and then continues with the manuscript.

Woven Selection -Taking literature apart and putting them back together in a thematic way.

Basics

For both Prose and Poetry

Each contestant must have two selections that meet the category requirements.

Each selection must not exceed the time limit **-7 minutes-this includes the presentation of the introduction and teaser (if applicable).**

Students must have selections typed as a manuscript in a binder ,and speakers should be dressed professionally.

Categories

In both Prose & Poetry, there are two categories

Category A - Examining Our Changing World

Category B - Taking A Stand

[2018-2019 Prose Categories](#)

[2018-2019 Poetry Categories](#)

When choosing literature for selections

You want it to have “meat”. Is the material powerful. Is it relevant?

Make sure it fits the category. You can't always make your favorite novel fit - it's like trying to put a square peg in a round hole!

Consult the UIL Prose & Poetry Handbook

[UIL Prose & Poetry Handbook](#)

Go to “Oral Interpretation: To Inform and To Persuade” at CC 407 at 11:45 for the best information on categories, documentation, introductions, teasers, etc! Get there early so you get a good seat!

Materials

Selections should be typed in manuscript form

Selections should be placed in small black binder for performance

Students should consider slick sheets or other ways to make pages turn easily.

See the UIL website for guidance -

DO NOT READ DIRECTLY FROM THE BOOK

Manuscripts - What in the world are those?

You have to prepare a “script” for you to read of your selection.

Usually these are typed. Sometimes poetry can just be copied from the book. I suggest all be typed.

Books are small. Our guidelines are

Right Margin - 3 inches

Bottom Margin - 3 inches

Top and Left Margin - 1 inch

Font - 12 or 14 - Big enough for you to read it!

Manuscripts - What in the World are those? cont

Manuscripts can be colored coded - esp for different characters

Manuscripts can be written on - Give yourself clues to slow down, speed up, “LOOK UP”!

Keep time placings written on your manuscript.

Manuscripts should be printed on white paper. They can be backed by black construction paper. NO other colors.

When performing, the manuscript should NOT be visible

[How to Prepare a Manuscript](#)

TIME!!!! IT IS ON YOU!!!

Time starts from the time you open your mouth and ends at the last word you speak.

In UIL, THERE IS NO GRACE PERIOD!!!!!!

At District, Regionals, and State, there will be a timekeeper in the room. It is the speaker's responsibility to watch the time cards while he or she performs.

Hopefully there will be a timekeeper at all tournaments, but that is not always possible.

It is the speaker's responsibility to stop before time expires.

Time! Don't go Over

Issues with time -

Speakers are unwilling to cut “favorite” material.

Speakers “milk” their performance. They get caught up in the moment and get behind on their time.

Speakers have not practiced selection enough to know what the selection runs.

Do not assume you will be nervous and that will cut 30 seconds off!

Time - Be the Boss!

Create a selection that is 6:15. Give yourself the wiggle room you may need. If you start running 6:50 or 7:00 on the dot - cut something. You may love every single word in your selection. Being Disqualified is not fun. CUT!

Take advice from others who listen to your selection. They can help you find areas that are needed

Practice, Practice, Practice WITH TIMECARDS!

Mark Times on your manuscript - That way you will know during your presentation if you are behind.

Plan B and Plan C and maybe Plan D - Have escape routes -where you can jump over to if your selection is running long.

Practice

It's a scary thing! You have to be confident and realize the more you perform the better you will become.

At home - Practice as much as possible. I ask my interps to practice at least once a day. Practice in front of your family, your neighbor lady, the dog! A great technique is to practice in front of the mirror.

Practice with your coach as much as possible. State winners work endlessly with their coach

Be open to criticism. You may not change it, but open to others' suggestions.

Appearance- How You Look Matters!

Sneakers are not appropriate.

Ladies, pack extra hose and proper undergarments (such as slips) for the outfits you have selected for contest.

Attire for performance should be professional, conservative and neat. Avoid the fads of the day; classic is the best choice.

You want to be remembered for your performance, not for your tie or the bow in your hair. Avoid any article of clothing or accessory that draws attention to itself, including white shoes, jewelry (i.e. large, dangling earrings) and other accessories.

Appearance: Continued

Judges see you before they hear you, so dress to impress them.

Slacks, ties, and a jacket for men are preferred; jeans are not.

For girls, short skirts, midriff tops, or revealing slits in skirts add a less-than-serious note as do low-cut or skintight blouses.

Remember that conservative professionalism is the standard of dress for tournament competition so that your attire does not interfere with the judge's enjoyment of your performance. A neat, clean, un-wrinkled appearance is the goal, so choose your wardrobe carefully.

Callaham's Contest Rules- Suit UP!

Hair - Get that hair out of your face! It should be clean, neat, and off face and out of eyes.

Make -up - Natural - nothing too dramatic **Jewelry** - minimal and classy

Closed toed shoes. Dark colors: black, navy, or gray

Men: Slacks, Button down ironed shirt, Tie, Jacket - Slacks and jacket dark, conservative color on tie.

Ladies: dress - solid dark colors, knee length, sleeves- Hose required.

blouse and skirt or blouse and slacks - Girls may wear a colorful blouse. Black, Navy, or Gray slacks or skirt. Jacket required for Regionals and State

[Example of correct dress](#)

Contest

For UIL, there are 3 contests - District - Regionals- State

District

Each school in your district can compete up to 3 contestants in Prose and 3 contestants in Poetry. This is NOT per grade level - this is 9th-12th grade. If you district has 6 schools, that means up to 18 speakers will participate in the contest.

More than likely, your district will have a preliminary round and a finals round.

Prelims - Depending on the district's decision, speakers will be divided into sections. Category A or Category B will be chosen. Speakers will compete in front of judges and audience. Judge(s) will rank speakers - 1st being the best. Usually the top 2 or 3 speakers from each section will go to finals.

Finals - The top speakers from prelims compete. The other category will be read. Judges will rank speakers. Speakers awarded 1st - 3rd will advance to Regionals.

Contest - Regionals

Schools are classified as 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A, and 6A. Classifications are based on a school's enrollment.

Each classification has 8 regions. We are in Region 1. Each Region consists of 8 districts.

At Regional Contest, 24 speakers will compete in Prose. 24 speakers will compete in Poetry. There will be a preliminary round and a finals round.

Prelims - 3 or 4 sections. Either 6 or 8 will advance to Finals. Most use a panel of 3 judges -but it could be 1 judge.

Finals - Top 6 or 8 from prelim. Should be a panel of 3 judges. Top three advance to State

Contest - State

In each classification (1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A), there are 4 Regions. Each Region sends 3 speakers.

For State Contest - There will be 12 Speakers.

Prelims - 2 sections of 6. There will be 3 judges. Top 3 in each section advances to finals.

Finals - All 6 speakers place and will be presented at the awards ceremony. UIL State Awards is a BIG DEAL!!!

Contest Day! Suggestions from Prose & Poetry Handbook

Be at the room for your event at least 10 to 15 minutes before the scheduled time to start. •

• Stay in contact with your coach and squad. Changes in schedules or room assignments occur frequently.

In the Prep Room (Many contests call this the holding room)• This is the assembly room where the Contest Director will draw which category you and the other contestants will read for the preliminary round.

Be certain that your documentation fulfills the requirements stated in the rules. • For each category, have the official UIL Documentation Form to give to the Contest Director for documentation check. In the Contest Room • Give each judge (there should always be an odd number 1, 3, 5) a copy of your UIL Documentation Form.

Contest Day ! Prose & Poetry Handbook

In the Contest Room -

Never enter or leave a room when a contestant is performing.

Listen courteously to other performers and stay for the entire round.

When it's your time to perform, show confidence as you approach the front of the room. You start making an impression when you leave your chair.

Before rising, be sure your folder is right side up!

Know where the timekeeper and judges are seated before you begin. Ask for clarification of time signals before beginning; the responsibility of keeping time ultimately resides with you! •

Make sure the use of your manuscript, including turning pages, does not distract from your performance. • The performance folder should contain only the selection you are performing that round. Remove all other paper

Contest Day -Prose & Poetry Handbook

Make sure that you have the attention of all the judges before you start, since you don't want anyone to miss your opening sentences.

If you make a mistake during performance, and sometime you will, don't let it destroy you. Judges and audiences want you to do well, and they will remember a successful recovery more than a mistake. Do not stop to apologize, since that only draws attention to the error.

Callaham's Advice For Contest Day

Check and double check that you have your book and documentation!!!!

Make sure clothes are neatly pressed and that you have your dress shoes. Girls, keep some extra bobby pins nearby! Today will be the day your hair decides to be rebellious!

Water and Snacks- bring a bottle of water, a small snack, and tissues. Today is the day your throat, tummy, and nose will decide to rebel.

Listen CAREFULLY in holding room. Make sure you are clear which category has been chosen for prelims. Don't be disqualified because you read the wrong selection!

WATCH TIME! - THERE IS NO GRACE PERIOD IN INTERP!!!!!! It is your job to be sure you finish under 7 minutes. STOP- you can still advance if you do not finish. You cannot advance if you go 7:01.

TURN YOUR PHONE OFF!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Performance

You should be sitting in the contest room after roll call and instructions in the prep (holding) room. Wait on the judge to call speakers up.

At tournaments, the judge(s) may ask you your name. At official contests, usually you will have a preassigned number or be identified by speaker number.

DO NOT GO IN AND INTRODUCE YOURSELF AND SHAKE THE JUDGE'S HAND!!!! That is a faux pas.

When the judge(s) is ready, give him/her or them the UIL Documentation form and wait at the front of the room with book closed.

Judge(s) when indicate when ready. Timer should be ready. Take a breath and begin!

Performance- cont

During performance,

Eye Contact -Remember this is Oral interpretation. Judges want a happy medium. They want eye contact - but they want you to reference to your manuscript throughout the selection.

Volume - Do not yell throughout the selection. Judges will eat you up on that. Be sure they can hear you, but less is more when it comes to screaming.

Diction- Make sure we can understand the words you are saying!

Pace - Are you speaking too fast? Are you speaking too slow? Is there a variation in your pace?

Performance - continued again!

Facial Expressions - You need those throughout the piece to connect to your audience

Gestures - Gestures are also connectors to audience.

Whole Body Movement - That should be limited. It doesn't mean you have to stand ramrod straight, but jumping around and running in place will not be perceived in a kindly manner.

Remember it takes time to develop a selection. You have to experiment and practice to know what works and what doesn't.

After the Performance

You usually sit around and wait! Be prepared for that. It is part of the process.

We keep a deck of card and phone chargers in the speech bag.

Usually there is a verification period after each round for coaches to check ballots and rankings sheets. This is usually when you are notified if you made prelims, or in the case of finals, how you placed.

Remember that judges have to make a decision based on what they believe was the best selection that day. You may not always agree, but please try to be respectful. No hunting down judges in the parking lot or on social media. Those ethic violations can result in stiff penalties for your whole school.

Contact Information

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Extra powerpoint on categories, documentation, introduction, etc

[extra powerpoint](#)