“The best performances are those that aren’t performed.”
Know the Rules

- Prose and Poetry Handbook. **GET IT. READ IT.** It will answer whatever questions you have. It includes the rules, category descriptions, and anything else you might have questions about. This can be ordered from the UIL website.

- Constitution and Contest Rules. Aka C&CR. This can be ordered from the UIL website. **GET IT. READ IT.** This can be ordered from the UIL website.
A Simple look at the basic rules

- Adhere to the categories for both Prose and Poetry (refer to the category descriptions for Prose and Poetry)
- Contestant must have a performance for category A and a performance for category B, whether they are doing Prose or Poetry.
- Contestant must have the appropriate documentation for the categories. (refer to the category descriptions for Prose and Poetry)
Contestants should perform from a manuscript or copies of the selections that are in a binder. Students SHALL not read from books or magazines or perform without a manuscript or copy of the selections.

Introductions are required in both categories.
A Simple look at the basic rules

- Contestants should not use costumes or props.
- Responsive use of the body (i.e. spontaneous changes in posture, gestures and place to place movement) is permissible. However, this active use of the body should:
  - be appropriate to the demands of the selection.
  - be a natural outgrowth from the literature to be performed.
  - Be limited in scope.
A Simple look at the basic rules

- Only incidental singing in the introduction, transition, commentary and/or selection may be included.
- The judge’s opinion regarding style and delivery is final.
- Perceptions of style and delivery will vary from judge to judge. Be prepared.
The time limit for each performance including introduction and any transition material may not exceed 7 minutes. There is no grace period. The responsibility for keeping within the restricted time limit rests with the contestant. The penalty for exceeding seven minutes is the disqualification from the round.
Choosing material

- There is no magic solution to finding material. Study the category descriptors and start reading. Read, read and read some more.
- Make friends with your librarian. Share the category descriptors with them. They love to read and they know what they have in their library.
- Don’t fall in love with anything that you can’t document.
- Be creative, have fun, but be sure your material meets community standards.
Elements

1. Title of selection
2. Author
3. Appropriate mood for selection
4. Biographical or critical information about the author or the selection
5. Background information about what has happened -- set the scene
1. It is an opportunity for audience to meet you, the performer
2. it must set the mood
3. short (usually less than a minute)
4. it states a theme
5. performer’s opportunity to convey relevant, important information and to prepare the audience emotionally.
6. must be memorized
7. must be conversational and natural (NOT performed or in character)
8. performed with the script closed
9. Can be delivered after a teaser of the performance itself
Introductions for UIL Categories 2013 – 2014

Required information to be included in addition to title(s)/author(s)

Prose – Category A

- Define your idea of a hero/heroine or survivor
- What are the inspirational qualities a hero/heroine/survivor exemplifies for you personally and your selection reflects

Prose – Category B

- State the types of literature you are using and include titles/authors of each type
- Introduce theme and its significance
Required information to be included in addition to title(s)/author(s)

Poetry – Category A
- Identify the decade, social or political movement you have chosen to feature
- Discuss the significance of that decade or movement

Poetry – Category B
- No specific additional feature requirement
Teasers

- It depends on the selection.
- Teaser and introduction shouldn’t be more than 2 minutes.
- Should be performed with the book open.
- Then close book for the introduction, which is memorized.
Writing the intro in 4–5 sentences

- THE TRIANGLE
- 1. Broad theme – quotation, statistic, broad thematic statement – 1 sentence
- 2. Narrow theme to audience, 1–2 sentences
- 3. Narrow theme to story, 1–2 sentences
- 4. Title and author
Write an introduction for your life using the triangle.

1. What is the theme for your life?
2. How does the theme relate to the audience?
3. How does the theme relate to your life story?
4. What is the title of your life story and who wrote it?
The Book

- Black Binder 8 ½” x 5 ½“. 1” round rings. 3 rings. Be sure that the metal bar with the rings is attached on the spine, not the back cover. The Sparco brand is designed this way.
- Sheet protectors. 8 ½” x 5 ½“. Clear. Top load.
- Black card stock 8 ½ “ x 5 ½ “. You may have to buy 8 ½ “ x 11” and cut in half