



To: District Prose and Poetry Contest Directors 2016-17  
From: Jana Riggins, State Director  
RE: Administering the Prose and Poetry Contests

The ***UIL Prose and Poetry Handbook*** will assist you in procedures for the contests. It is downloadable free from the UIL Online Store.

Calculate your multiple judge tabulation for accurate final rankings by downloading the newest version of the **UIL TalkTab** software 3.1, available for free from the speech page of the UIL website. Even if you calculate manually, run the ranks on **TalkTab** and print the diagnostics to display to coaches during verification of the results. From the speech homepage, click on TOURNAMENTS and you will see the **TalkTab** link.

UIL Prose and Poetry contests have two designated performance categories per event. Please read the contest rules in the ***Constitution & Contest Rules*** (oral interpretation page). Chapter 2-3 of the ***UIL Prose and Poetry Handbook***, and the latest rulings posted on the official UIL website, carefully reviewing the category descriptions in advance of the meet so that you are confident in training judges and checking documentation for events.

***Give copies of the "Guidelines for Judges of Poetry & Prose" included in this contest packet to your judges in advance of the meet. It is critical for your judges to be aware of specific requirements and literature that is now allowed under the rules. Then, on the day of the contest, conduct a briefing session prior to starting the rounds to make sure judges understand what each category is requiring of the contestants.***



**To check documentation, review the following:**

**Poetry: Category A: "Examining Our Changing World"**

*See the **UIL Prose and Poetry Handbook** for a full description of the category and category restrictions.*

***\*New\**** Contestants shall provide a printed copy of the *UIL Poetry A Documentation Form*.

Contestants are required to perform a single poem, excerpt of a poem or literary program. The contestant shall read no more than 6 selections. Co-authored poems or anonymously written poems are not permissible. The goal is for the performer to examine his or her changing world in order to inform the audience about a societal change and its impact on the performer.

**As Contest Director, prior to starting rounds, you should check for the following:**

- 1) Examine the student's official UIL Documentation Form
- 2) Proof that the selection is published, printed material
- 3) Proof that the poet(s) used for Category A is different from the poet(s) the student is using for Category B
- 4) Proof that the theme used for Category A is different from the theme the student is using for Category B

## PROOF OF PUBLICATION

\*A poem is NOT considered published, printed material if only posted on the Internet. Contestants can prove their selection is published in hard copy in one of the following ways:

- Show the original book
- Provide a copy of the Library of Congress cataloging information from the original source or from the Library of Congress Online catalog (<http://www.catalog.loc.gov>)
- Show official communication from the publisher or author indicating the printed publication in which the selection can be found

Special Note: If the selection is drawn from a literary collection or anthology, the contestant must go an extra step and supply one of the following:

- ✓ the original source confirming the selection is included **OR**
- ✓ a photocopy of the table of contents designating the title of the book as well as proof the specific selection is included in that book **OR**
- ✓ an online printout proving the selection is included in the anthology

Legitimate online sources:

If using an online source for documentation, the page with the birth date must be printed and have the URL downloaded and printed in the header/footer of the page.

- Library of Congress data page
- Website copyrighted to author
- Publisher's website
- Online encyclopedias maintained by reputable publishing companies
- Online libraries maintained by government agencies, colleges/universities
- Websites run by
  - government agencies
  - college/university webpages that are maintained by faculty and university personnel, not students
- websites sponsored by reputable journalistic organizations

## UNacceptable Documentation

- X Wikipedia
- X Facebook
- X IMDb.com
- X Unofficial document generated by contestant, such as cut & pasted document
- X Goodread.com
- X Trueknowledge.com
- X Student websites
- X Fan websites
- X Freebase.com
- X Unauthorized encyclopedias
- X Web pages that come from discussion groups, chat rooms, or blogs
  - See *Rulings section on the Oral Interpretation page of the UIL speech web for updates on additional sites/official rulings.*

## PROOF OF NO REPEAT POETS

This may be done by the following:

- Show the literature/authors being read in both categories
- Refer to student's UIL Documentation forms

## **Poetry: Category B: “Taking A Stand”**

See the **UIL Prose and Poetry Handbook** for a full description of the category and category restrictions.

**\*New\*** Contestants shall provide a printed copy of the UIL Poetry B Documentation Form.

The contestant is required to read a minimum of 2 different selections by different authors, but no more than 6 selections. The majority of the program must be poetry but 1 alternative source is allowed. Anonymous authors are allowed. The goal of this category is to develop a thematic program that supports a position by using poetry to make a persuasive argument.

### **As Contest Director, prior to starting rounds, you should check for the following:**

- 1) Examine the student’s official UIL documentation form
- 2) Proof that the poet(s) used for Category B are different from those the student is using for Category A
- 3) Proof that the theme used for Category B is different from the theme the student is using for Category A

### **PROOF OF NO REPEAT AUTHOR**

This may be done by the following:

- Show the literature/authors being read in both categories
- Refer to student’s UIL Documentation forms



## **Prose, Category A: “Examining Our Changing World”**

See the **UIL Prose and Poetry Handbook** for a full description of the category and category restrictions.

**\*New\*** Contestants shall provide a printed copy of the UIL Prose A Documentation Form.

Category A requires the contestant to read one single prose selection, fiction or nonfiction, written by a single author. Speeches and plays are prohibited in Category A. Works co-authored or by anonymous authors are not permissible. The goal is for the performer to examine his or her changing world in order to inform the audience about a societal change and its impact on the performer.

### **As Contest Director, prior to starting rounds, you should check for the following:**

- 1) Examine the student’s official UIL Documentation form
- 2) Proof that the selection is published, printed material
- 3) Proof that the author used for Category A is different from the ones the student is using for Category B
- 4) Proof that the theme/subject matter used in Category A is different from the theme/subject matter the student is using for Category B

### **PROOF OF PUBLICATION**

\*A selection is NOT considered published, printed material if only posted on the Internet or only in e-book form. Contestants can prove their poem is published in hard copy in one of the following ways:

- Show the original book
- Provide a copy of the Library of Congress cataloguing information from the original source or from the Library of Congress Online catalog (<http://www.catalog.loc.gov/>)
- Show official communication from the publisher or author indicating the publication

Special Note: If the selection is drawn from a literary collection or anthology, the contestant must go an extra step and supply one of the following:

- ✓ the original source confirming the selection is included **OR**
- ✓ a photocopy of the table of contents designating the title of the book as well as proof the specific selection is included in that book **OR**
- ✓ an online printout proving the selection is included in the anthology

Legitimate online sources:

If using an online source for documentation, the page with the birth date must be printed and have the URL downloaded and printed in the header/footer of the page.

- Library of Congress data page
- Website copyrighted to author
- Publisher's website
- Online encyclopedias maintained by reputable publishing companies
- Online libraries maintained by government agencies, colleges/universities
- Websites run by
  - government agencies
  - college/university webpages that are maintained by faculty and university personnel, not students
- Websites sponsored by reputable journalistic organizations

#### **UN**acceptable Documentation

- X Wikipedia
- X Facebook
- X IMDb.com
- X Unofficial document generated by contestant, such as cut & pasted document
- X Goodread.com
- X Trueknowledge.com
- X Student websites
- X Fan websites
- X Freebase.com
- X Unauthorized encyclopedias
- X Web pages that come from discussion groups, chat rooms, or blogs
  - See *Rulings section on the Oral Interpretation page of the UIL speech web for updates on additional sites/official rulings.*

#### **PROOF OF NO REPEAT AUTHOR**

This may be done by the following:

- Show the literature/authors being read in both categories
- Refer to student's UIL Documentation forms



#### **Prose, Category B: "Taking A Stand"**

See the **UIL Prose and Poetry Handbook** for a full description of the category and category restrictions.

**\*New\*** Contestants shall provide a printed copy of the UIL Prose B Documentation Form.

Category B requires the contestant to perform a minimum of 2 different types of literary sources but no more than 4 sources. Literary sources must be by different authors. The majority of the program must be prose. For this category, prose includes fiction, nonfiction, news sources, speeches and essays. In addition, for one of the sources, contestants may (but are not required

to) use a script from a movie, documentary, television show or movie, radio show, play or monologue. The goal of the category is to develop a thematic program using different types of literature to make a persuasive argument.

Contestants shall not use poetry, song lyrics, musicals, jokes, commercials, blogs, plays written in verse or novels in verse. Anonymous authors are acceptable. Transitions written by the performer are allowed. Woven performances are also permitted.

All selections may be published, printed material online material or transcribed material. Contestants are allowed to transcribe the material they are performing.

**As Contest Director, prior to starting rounds, you should check for the following:**

- 1) Examine the student's official UIL Documentation Form
- 2) Proof that the contestant's performance includes 2-4 different types of sources with different authors
- 3) Proof that the author(s) used for Category B are different from the ones the student is using for Category A
- 4) Proof that the theme/subject matter used for Category B is different from that used for Category A

**PROOF OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF LITERATURE/AUTHORS**

This may be done by the following:

- Refer to the student's UIL Documentation Form

**PROOF OF NO REPEAT AUTHOR**

This may be done by the following:

- Show the literature/authors being read in both categories
- Refer to the student's UIL Documentation Form

\*See the UIL website at <http://www.uiltexas.org/speech/oral-interp> for the latest interpretive rulings and examples. There are postings on specific online sources and on authors.

The UIL State Office has made an official ruling that the online encyclopedia, Wikipedia, is not a respected academic research site, and documentation from it or sites that draw information from it will not be accepted for UIL oral interpretation

Thank you, Contest Directors, for your dedication to running an efficient, fair and equitable contest. We have made every attempt to assist you through the *C&CR*, *UIL Prose & Poetry Handbook*, discussion published in the online *Leaguer* and on the official UIL website, as well as this instructional memo. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at the State Office in advance of the contest.

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UIL State Director

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