

Frequently Asked Questions

UIL Oral Interpretation Categories

2015-2016

Q: Are works that are only produced as e-books eligible for UIL Competition?

A: E-books are not acceptable for Category A of Poetry and Prose. They would be eligible for Category B of both Prose and Poetry, due to the current categories.

Q: When do you have to give titles/authors in your performance?

A: It is critical in any performance to publicly acknowledge whose work(s) is being performed. The *UIL Constitution and Contest Rules* mandates this recognition (see pages 123 and 126). At one time, rules required that all titles and authors be delivered in the introduction, but it is now acceptable to include this information in the introduction and within subsequent commentary (transitions) of the performance.

Q: Are tweets acceptable documentation?

A: No. Social media (Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, etc.) responses are not considered acceptable forms of documentation, and therefore, messages received via Twitter are not acceptable for any category. See page 62 of the *UIL Prose and Poetry Handbook* for more information on what is considered an acceptable source of documentation.

Q: For Category B of Prose, do competitors have to provide pieces from two different types of literature? (Ex: using fiction prose and non-fiction prose selections instead of two selections of non-fiction prose)

A: The intent of the category is stated in the opening sentence published in the *Constitution and Contest Rules* — page 125:

"The goal of this category is to develop a thematic program using different TYPES of literature."

Two non-fiction selections are the same type of prose, so that would not meet the intent of the category, unless a contrasting literary type is also used (i.e. combinations like fiction, fiction plus a speech or fiction, fiction and a movie script). Remember, 2-4 sources are allowed. The descriptor defines the different types of prose (fiction, non-fiction, speech, essays, news sources)

Therefore, even if you choose only to do prose — it should be 2 types of prose as listed in the current descriptor. (I.e., fiction combined with non-fiction, or non-fiction combined with a news source, etc.) Remember that this category is expansive, allowing you to use a script in conjunction with prose. You are encouraged to be innovative in your approach to Prose B.

Also, be certain your selections are written by different authors.

Q: Are jokes or commercials appropriate sources for Category B of Prose?

A: No. The *UIL Constitution and Contest Rules* defines the types of prose eligible for this category, as well as the type of alternative source (one) that may be incorporated in this performance. Jokes and commercials are prohibited. Reminder: The contest is Prose Interpretation. It is not Humorous Interpretation. You will note that this category also prohibits song lyrics. Commercials typically include jingles, a type of song. Contestants should remember the purpose of the contest is to encourage you to understand, experience and share prose works through the art of oral interpretation. Oral interpretation is the study of literature through performance. Selections used should be literary works.

Q: Are museum pamphlets, posters, or display cards acceptable sources for Category B of Prose?

A: No. See response above.

Q. Are monologues allowed for Category B of Prose?

A. Yes.

Q: Does Category B of Prose require two or more authors?

A: Yes. The rules state the literature selected must be written by different authors.

Q: For Category A of Poetry, should contestants using song lyrics as transitions in the program be required to list the songs for their judges?

A: It is required that you reveal in the introduction if you are using song lyrics as transitions within your program. Listing individual songs titles is not specifically required but could promote clarity that performers are adhering to the restrictions of the use of songs in Category A. Lyrics published solely as music are only allowed to be used as **transitions**, not as performance selections.

Q: If a poet's performance is listed on an event calendar on PoetryFoundation.org, is the poet then eligible for Category B of Poetry?

A: No. The only eligible appropriate "listing" is the poet's biography appearing on the designated website.

Q: For Category B of Poetry, are students also required to prove authorship of poems used within the program?

A: Certainly, the poems are to be written by your selected poet featured on *PoetryFoundation.org*. However, proof is not a requirement of documentation. Ethics should be followed.

Q: There is no biography of the poet on PoetryFoundation.org, but there is a link to the poet's poems, which are found in the Poetry magazine posted on the site. Would this poet qualify for Category B?

A: No. The only thing that makes a poet eligible for Category B is the appearance of their biography on the designated website. Feature articles, blogs, poems do not make them eligible.