



To: Region Prose and Poetry Contest Directors 2018-19
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 website.

Calculate your multiple judge tabulation for accurate final rankings by downloading the latest 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**, make sure both tabulations agree, 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. We are now offering Judge Training materials online. I urge you to require your prose and poetry judges to review the Resources for Judge Training at <http://www.uil texas.org/speech/oral-interp>. 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.

****Note**** 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 poems, 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(s) is/are published, printed material

- 3) Proof that the poet(s) used for Category A is/are 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 (such as a photocopy of the first page of the selection matching the table of contents) **OR**
- ✓ an online printout proving the selection is included in the anthology

Legitimate online sources:

If using an online source for documentation, the page must be printed in hard copy 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/NO REPEAT THEME

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.

**Note* 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, including a play written in verse or a single song or one poem included in a podcast. Co-authored works are allowed. Only one anonymous author is 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 contestant's performance includes at least 2 selections by different authors but no more than 6, adhering to the types of literature allowed
- 3) If an alternate source is used, there is only one
- 4) If an anonymous author is used, there is only one
- 5) Proof that the poet(s) used for Category B are different from those the student is using for Category A
- 6) 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/NO REPEAT THEME

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.

**Note* 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, plays, screenplays, movies and documentaries 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 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 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 (such as a photocopy of the first page of the selection matching the table of contents) **OR**
- ✓ an online printout proving the selection is included in the anthology

Legitimate online sources:

If using an online source for documentation, the webpage must be printed in hard copy 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 AUTHOR/NO REPEAT THEME

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.

**Note* 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. 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 an alternative source, including a script from a movie, documentary, television show or movie, radio show, play or monologue. All selections shall be by different authors. Literature by co-authors is allowed. Only one anonymous author is acceptable. Transitions written by the performer are allowed. Woven performances are also permitted. 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.

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 all written by different authors
- 3) If an alternate source is included in the performance, there is only one
- 4) Proof that the author(s) used for Category B are different from the ones the student is using for Category A
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/NO REPEAT THEME

This may be done by the following:

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

*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.

- Electronic Retrieval Devices such as Kindle, Nook, iPad, and smart phones do NOT meet constitutional requirements to provide hard copy proof of documentation. Students may not show their documentation electronically. They must provide a hard copy.
<http://www.uiltexas.org/speech/oral-interp/documentation-ruling-electronic-devices>
- 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.
- **Novels-In-Verse:** If a literary work can be officially documented as a “novel-in-verse”, it is considered poetry for UIL competition.

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 posted on the official UIL website, as well as this instructional memo. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me in advance of the contest.

Jana Riggins, UIL State Director

jriggins@uiltexas.org

State Office: 512.471.5883

Mobile: 512.773.7372