

Forensics in Texas: A Comparison

Prose Interpretation	UIL	NSDA	TFA
Time	7 minutes no grace	5 minutes 30 second grace period	7 minutes 30 second grace period
Synopsis	oral interpretation of prose; prepare 2 performances from 2 specified literary categories; documentation of categories required state-qualifying event	oral interpretation of prose; selection from published works supplemental event only at nationals	oral interpretation of prose; selection from published works offered in even years only
Delivery	oral reading; not memorized except introduction	oral reading; not memorized except introduction	oral reading; not memorized except introduction

Poetry Interpretation	UIL	NSDA	TFA
Time	7 minutes no grace	5 minutes 30 second grace period	7 minutes 30 second grace period
Synopsis	oral interpretation of poetry; prepare 2 performances from 2 specified poetic categories; documentation of categories required state-qualifying event	oral interpretation of poetry; selection from published works poetic in nature supplemental event only at nationals	oral interpretation of poetry; selection from published works poetic in nature offered in odd years only
Delivery	oral reading not memorized except introduction	oral reading not memorized except introduction	oral reading not memorized except introduction

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Informative*/US Extemporaneous Speaking	UIL	NSDA	TFA
Time	7 minutes allowed to finish sentence	7 minutes 30 second grace period	7 minutes 30 second grace period
Synopsis	speaker draws 5 current event topics, chooses one to speak on after 30 minutes of preparation time; speech is informative in nature; topics cover domestic, international and Texas issues state-qualifying event	speaker draws 3 current event topics, chooses one to speak on after 30 minutes of preparation time; final round has a two minute cross-examination period topics cover domestic issues national qualifying event	speaker draws 3 current event topics, chooses one to speak on after 30 minutes of preparation time; final round at state has a three-minute cross-examination period; topics cover domestic issues state-qualifying event
Delivery	1 3"X5" notecard allowed district/regional/state	notecard use prohibited	1 3"X5" notecard allowed in preliminary rounds prohibited in elimination rounds; prohibited at state tournament

Persuasive* /Int'l Extemporaneous Speaking	UIL	NSDA	TFA
Time	7 minutes allowed to finish sentence	7 minutes 30 second grace period	7 minutes 30 second grace period
Synopsis	speaker draws 5 current event topics, chooses one to speak on after 30 minutes of preparation time; speech is persuasive in nature; topics cover domestic, international and Texas issues State qualifying event	speaker draws 3 current event topics, chooses one to speak on after 30 minutes of preparation time; final round has a two-minute cross-examination period: topics cover international issues National qualifying event	speaker draws 3 current event topics, chooses one to speak on after 30 minutes of preparation time; final round at state tournament has a three-minute cross-examination period; topics cover international issues State qualifying event
Delivery	1 3"X5" notecard allowed district/regional/state	notecard use is prohibited	1 3"X5" notecard allowed in preliminary rounds prohibited in elimination rounds; notecard use is prohibited at state tournament

*Both NSDA and TFA have an Informative Speaking event, but it is not extemporaneous in nature and has its own rules and guidelines.

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Cross-Examination Policy Debate	UIL	NSDA	TFA
Time	8-3-8-3-8-3-8-3-5-5-5-5 8 minute preparation	8-3-8-3-8-3-8-3-5-5-5-5 5 minute preparation	8-3-8-3-8-3-8-3-5-5-5-5 8 minute preparation
Synopsis	two-member teams debating policy question; broad national or international topic remains the same all year; released each January for the following year	two-member teams debating policy question; broad national or international topic remains the same all year; released each January for the following year	two-member teams debating policy question; broad national or international topic remains the same all year; released each January for the following year
Delivery	Extemporaneous	Extemporaneous	Extemporaneous

Lincoln-Douglas Debate	UIL	NSDA	TFA
Time	6-3-7-3-4-6-3 4 minute preparation	6-3-7-3-4-6-3 4 minute preparation	6-3-7-3-4-6-3 4 minute preparation
Synopsis	A one on one value debate; Fall topic used August — December; Spring topic used January — May; available on UIL website	A one on one value debate; NSDA topic changes every 2 months	A one on one value debate; can debate UIL or NSDA current topic based on local tournament choice
Delivery	Extemporaneous	Extemporaneous	Extemporaneous

Congress	UIL	NSDA	TFA
Time	Each session approx. 3 hours	Each session approx. 3 hours	Each session approx. 4 hours
Synopsis	Mock U.S. Congress Bills/Resolutions authored by students	Mock U.S. Congress Bills/Resolutions authored by students	Mock U.S. Congress Bills/Resolutions authored by students
Delivery	Prepared by Extemporaneous	Prepared by Extemporaneous	Prepared by Extemporaneous