

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; prepare one performance from published works, e- books, PDF online published, or from a website approved by NSDA supplemental event only at nationals	oral interpretation of prose; prepare one performance from published works, e-books, PDF online published, or from a website approved by NSDA 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; prepare one performance from published works, e- books, PDF online published, or from a website approved by NSDA supplemental event only at nationals	oral interpretation of poetry; prepare one performance from published works, e-books, PDF online published, or from a website approved by NSDA 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

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

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 8 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 but Extemporaneously delivered	Prepared but Extemporaneously delivered	Prepared but Extemporaneously delivered