

POETRY INTERPRETATION

Important Information about State Meet

Congratulations on qualifying for the UIL State Meet!
Jana Riggins, UIL State Director of Speech & Debate

Prior to the Meet:

- The Speech State Meet [webpage](#) has been created as a central location for providing details about the state championship tournament and easy access to links for forms you are required and deadlines you must meet. Consult it frequently from now until the tournament has been completed for regular updates. <https://www.uiltexas.org/speech/info/25-speech-state-tournament>
- **Review the Rules** for your contest from the [Constitution & Contest Rules](#) and the [UIL Prose and Poetry Handbook](#) (Chapter 3 provides valuable info about the categories and page 58 is the helpful checklist on documentation). Check the [Oral Interpretation webpage](#) for important documentation rulings on specific selections/books.
- Contact the State Director immediately if your documentation has raised questions or had issues in documentation check at any previous level of competition. Assuming it will pass at State is risky.
- Time your selections again! The timekeeper is there for convenience, but it is **your** responsibility to adhere to the 7-minute time limit. **There is no grace period.** Cut your literature so your performance is well within the time restraints because performing at State in front of a large audience can impact your reading. Revisit your introduction to be certain it meets the requirements specified in the category descriptor.
- By **April 30**, the following actions must be completed online:
 - Contestants submit **Poetry Documentation: Coaches, carefully study the instructions for submission and prepare the required documentation.** www.uiltexas.org/speech/info/prose-and-poetry-state-contestants-and-coaches-information/
 - Contestants complete and submit the **Poetry Contestant Information Form:** <https://www.uiltexas.org/machform/view.php?id=330787>. This form requires you to attach PDF files of your documentation. Google files will not be accepted.
 - Qualifying Coaches submit **State Meet Coach Information Form:** <https://www.uiltexas.org/machform/view.php?id=471167>

- On the Sunday before State Meet (May 18) **ALL** schools must officially check-in to the meet for **EACH** contest by **12 noon**. See highlighted “Virtual Check-In” on the UIL Speech State Meet Tournament page: <https://www.uil texas.org/speech/info/virtual-check-in>
- If you cannot compete at State Meet, it is critical that you contact State Director Jana Riggins at the UIL State Office promptly.
- If you are an alternate, consult the **For Alternates Only** document online for answers to your questions.

The Meet:

- Your contest will be held on the campus of the University of Texas in Austin in the University Teaching Center building. A State Meet campus map is posted online.
- It is strongly recommended for coaches to attend the **Coaches Meeting on Sunday, May 18 at 6:30 pm in the University Teaching Center, 2.112A auditorium**. Important information about your contest will be reviewed and the opportunity to ask questions will be provided. Attendance is not mandatory but advantageous.
- **The Poetry contest preliminary rounds will be conducted on Monday, May 19 at 4:00 pm. Opening assembly will be in UTC 2.112A. 6 contestants will advance from prelims to finals (3 from each section). Final rounds will be conducted on Tuesday at 8:00 am. Report to the assembly for final round roll call in UTC 2.112A.**
- **BE ON TIME!** Allow plenty of time to account for Austin traffic, for parking on campus, and locating the assembly room. Roll will be called in the assembly. After roll call is completed, alternates are called to take empty places in their region. Once an alternate has been called and verified, even if you arrive, you may not compete. Upon advancing to finals, again – be on time. Contestants are not allowed to compete out of order for any reason. Check the schedule carefully. It is extremely important that you are ready to perform when you are called.
- Review parking information posted online. Those in violation will be ticketed and/or towed. The League is not responsible for any parking citation received by visitors to the campus.
- **Bring to Roll Call sufficient printed copies of your Selection-Documentation Form to give to each of your adjudicators on the judging panel. (only the form**

itself is necessary to give to them, no attached documentation) There will be 3 judges for the preliminary round (Day 1) and 3 for the final round (Day 2).

- If possible, bring the original sources of your selections to the contest. Although not mandatory, it is a safeguard if your selection is called into question.
- All rounds are open to the public. Audiences may attend but must adhere to requirements. No computers may be brought into the competition room and all cell phones must be turned completely off. No coaching or cheering or distracting behavior shall be allowed during the contest.
- It is a violation for contestants or spectators to record/video any round.
- **Contestants should dress professionally in tournament attire for competition and attend the formal awards ceremony in tournament attire.**

Ballot Verification

- Verification will follow tabulation of the preliminary rounds. Ballots will be pushed through **SpeechWire** (all schools must have accounts set up in advance) so coaches and students can view ballots and receive unofficial results. Verification will follow in UTC 2.102A at which time any questions must be raised and the master tabulation may be viewed.
- Once verification is over and results have been declared official, advancing contestants should report to UTC 2.102A to draw for speaker order in the final round.

Awards

- Contestants should remain in professional tournament attire for the awards ceremony where all 6 finalists will be recognized on stage, along with their coaches. The awards ceremony is scheduled for **4:30 pm on May 20** in the LBJ Presidential Library Auditorium on campus. Free parking for the LBJ Auditorium is located in Lot 40 on a first come, first serve basis starting at 1pm (see [map](#) on the Speech State Meet [webpage](#)). There is also paid parking available in the Manor Garage just south of Sid Richardson Hall.
- Medals will be presented to all finalists, and the coach of the state champion will receive a lapel pin. Speech Team State Championship plaques for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place will be presented in each conference near the conclusion of the ceremony.
- Professional photos for the archives will be taken of each gold, silver and bronze medalist. All gold medalists will be asked to remain in the photo area for an all-conference UIL state champion photo.

Congratulations on advancing to State!
Questions?

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State UIL Speech participants are eligible to apply for a TILF scholarship. **2025 submission deadline is May 23.** All students must submit an application by that date. See details on TILF website. <http://www.tilfoundation.org/>