

# THE BASICS OF UIL PROSE/POETRY

CHS  
SPEECH & DEBATE  
SCHNIERS

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# THE LOOK

- How you look and present yourself **BEFORE** the stopwatch starts is your

## 1<sup>st</sup> - First Impression

(What our eyes can see)

- How do you make a good 1<sup>st</sup> Impression?
  - Dress the part = Suit, Hair, Hands
  - Wait for the judges
  - Take the stance
  - Scan the room

# THE BOOK

- Make sure you have a black book, black pages and you have good book manners... this is your

## 2<sup>nd</sup> - First Impression ☺

- Black Book -
  - the little black book is like a “little black dress” everyone needs a good one
  - the black book is a: 3 ring binder with the dimensions of- 8½ x 5½ by 1”
  - keep it looking nice (heat and backpacks will damage it) = love your book
  - make sure you **READ** out of your book
- Black Pages -
  - we use black construction paper (so it’s heavier) cut to fit the book
  - only paste on the front side of the black pages
  - make sure they don’t hang out below the book
  - we don’t use “slicks” or “plastic sleeves”
  - make sure you place your pieces opposite of each other in your book
- Book Manners -
  - Ready position
  - one swift movement to bring book down
  - be graceful with the book
  - use focused page turns

# THE RULES

- **READ THE UIL CONSTITUTION!**
- You will have an A and a B piece.
  - Both have to be ready. They will draw for which category will be read for the preliminary round and which will be read for the finals round. Hopefully you'll get to read both. 😊
- You have 7:00 minutes!! (not 7:01)
  - Our goal is for you piece to not be longer than 6:50 or shorter than 6:00.
- **Make sure your piece fits the category!**

# THE DOCUMENTATION

**This is one of the MOST important parts of the UIL Prose/Poetry Team! You won't compete without correct documentation.**

- Make sure you have the published, hard copies of your pieces.
- Make sure you print documentation from a credible source (UIL's version - not yours ☺). Double check the UIL website for new information concerning sites.
- Make sure you print the home page from any online sources.
- Make sure the URL is on the bottom of any online sources.
- Make sure you have all your category A & category B documentation in the verification folder.
- Make sure each piece has a different author.
- Make sure you don't get your piece from screen plays, speeches or song lyrics

# THE DOCUMENTATION

## PROSE

### Category A: Generation X, Y and Beyond

The goal of this category is for the student to explore contemporary authors. The contestant shall perform a single prose selection from a printed, published work by a single author born in 1960 or after. The selection for this category may include but is not limited to short stories, novels, science fiction, fiction, nonfiction, wit and humor, or fantasy. The selection shall not include speeches, one-person theatre or theatrical monologues. The author used in this category shall not be used in Category B of prose.

#### Documentation Requirements

- Proof the selection is published in hard copy.
- Proof that the writer was born in 1960 or after.  
*Examples of acceptable documentation include the original or photocopy of an encyclopedia or reference book, or other published biographical information that verifies the author's date of birth. Correspondence from the author or publisher, a published newspaper, magazine article or book jacket that verifies the author's date of birth are acceptable. Copyright date of publication is not acceptable documentation.*
- The web site's homepage (*make sure the URL is on any pages printed from an online source.*).

### Category B: In the News

The goal of this category is to explore works of prose related to a newsworthy event. The contestant shall perform a single prose selection or program of prose from printed published work(s), related to a significant news story. Newsworthy events include lead stories of regional, national, or international impact. The introduction should explain how the newsworthy event is related to the selection(s) being read. The selection(s) may be fiction or nonfiction, written by one author or a collaborative work by two or more authors, or anonymous, but no more than four prose selections shall be performed. The program may be woven or may incorporate transitions. If the program is woven, it shall be stated in the introduction. The news article may be woven into the program but shall not make up the entire program. The author(s) used in this category shall not be used in Category A of prose.

#### Documentation Requirements

- Proof the selection is published in hard copy.
- Proof the selection(s) is/are related to a newsworthy event. *Acceptable documentation of the newsworthy event shall be printed from one of the following:*  
<http://www.History.com/this-day-in-history>;  
<http://www.nytimes.com/learning/general/onthisday/index.html>; *headline or lead story with the URL downloaded in the header or footer on the printed page; the original published news story; or photocopy of the published news story.*
- The web site's homepage (*make sure the URL is on any pages printed from an online source.*).

# THE DOCUMENTATION

## POETRY

### Category A: A New Voice in Poetry

The goal of this category is to explore contemporary poets. The contestant shall perform a published poem, multiple poems, or excerpts of poems, written by one poet born in 1960 or after. **The contestant may perform a single poem or a program of no more than six poems.** The program may be woven or may incorporate verbal and/or nonverbal transitions. If the program is woven, it shall be stated in the introduction. The poet used in this category shall not be used in Category B of poetry.

#### Documentation Requirements

- Proof the selection is published in hard copy.
- Proof that the writer was born in 1960 or after.  
*Examples of acceptable documentation include the original or photocopy of an encyclopedia or reference book, or other published biographical information that verifies the author's date of birth. Correspondence from the author or publisher, a published newspaper, magazine article or book jacket that verifies the author's date of birth are acceptable. Copyright date of publication is not acceptable documentation.*
- The web site's homepage (*make sure the URL is on any pages printed from an online source.*)

### Category B: My Voice Through Poetry

The goal of this category is to examine a theme established through published poetic works. In this category, the contestant shall perform a theme-centered program of at least two poems or excerpts of poems by two or more poets. **The program shall be limited to no more than six poems.** The thematic collection may be woven or may incorporate verbal and/or nonverbal transitions. If the program is woven, it shall be stated in the introduction. The introduction should be used to identify the theme for the audience. Works by anonymous poets shall not be permissible. The poets used in this category shall not be used in Category A of poetry.

#### Documentation Requirements

- Proof the selection is published in hard copy.
- The web site's homepage (*make sure the URL is on any pages printed from an online source.*)

**Remember the unspoken RULE: It needs to be your voice – your story – something that relates to you personally.**



# THE INTRO

- It needs to :
  - help explain loose ends of your piece
  - help tie the category in
  - help tie the piece to you
  - state that your piece is woven if it is
  - state your title and author(s) (last line of your intro)
    - preferably with a lead in
- It needs to sound conversational (not boring) and be from the perspective of the reader.

# THE PIECE

- **Where do you find a piece?**
  - remember it has to be published in hard copy
  - it can not be from a script
  - Anywhere there are books!!! The key is to spend the **time** looking.
  - new pieces that haven't been performed a million times before are welcomed
- **What kind of piece is best?**
  - one that the reader can link to/fits the interper
  - first person (not always, so don't nix a piece because of it)
- **What should a piece have in it?**
  - levels (not always, so don't nix a piece because of it)
  - a beginning, a climax and an ending to the story
  - It should tell a story.

JUST MAKE SURE THE PIECE YOU PICK FITS THE CATEGORY!

# THE PIECE

## Words of Wisdom

- **Don't pick a piece:**
  - that was done in a final round last year
  - that is over done
  - that only goes back and forth between characters (prose)
  - that you don't understand (...chances are if thou dost not understandeth... neither will we) (*poetry*)
- Don't listen to me if you have something really really awesome...these are bits of personal preference.
- **Weaving is welcomed!!**
  - Find a theme in poetry that you love with up to 6 pieces.

# THE PERFORMANCE

- Your first line is your ...
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> - First Impression 😊  
(What our ears can hear)
- **Make sure you understand your piece!!**
  - Subtext!
- Your performance is an opportunity to show what you can do. Good things to remember:
  - levels, build, character bits, create your own bits, etc...
- Characters - Placement, Facials, Voice, Physical traits

# THE STYLE

- Teasers - using part of the actually piece as a preview before your introduction. I like them, but you don't have to have them. Don't force a teaser. If you do use a teaser, make sure the line after your intro is another strong line...you can call it your 4<sup>th</sup> - first impression... ha. Ok I'm done with those.
- Book Tricks - Don't close your book, flap your book like a butterfly or use it like a cane! Read from it. This is not HI or DI!!!! However, a little creativity can go a long way. Just be very careful.
- Bits - something that makes you stand out from the rest...a moment that will make the judges say, "Wow!" Have some.
- **BE CREATIVE!! THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX!**



Questions??

**Now go work on**  
**THE PRACTICE!**



**THE END**

**CHS**  
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**SCHNIERS**