

TMAA Adjudicators Sight-reading Procedure for Choir - Pilot

When the Conductor Enters the Room:

- Approach the conductor with a professional greeting. It is suggested that this be done by a TMAA active or provisional member judge.
- Have the conductor provide the time keeper with any “Warnings” (ex. One minute then 30 seconds, etc.)
- Show the conductor the selection to be performed and ask the following question verbatim: **“This organization will be reading (title of selection) which has been chosen for conference ____ (varsity or non-varsity groups). Is this the correct conference for your organization?”**
- **Prior to the first instruction period the conductor will be given one minute to study the sight-reading music full score during which time the conductor may take notes or utilize removable notes in the score, but may not mark directly on the score.**
- During the score study period music will be distributed to the students, but the students may not view or study the music until the instruction period begins.

Instruction Period:

- After a brief professional greeting to the ensemble, introduce yourself and the other adjudicators to the students.
- Ask the conductor the following question verbatim: **“Has this organization or any of its student members heard, read, rehearsed or performed this selection (indicating the music) at any time prior to this evaluation?”** If the answer is “yes”, refer to Section 1111, (A) and (B) of the ‘UIL Constitution and Contest Rules’.
- **Ask the conductor if he/she would like the rules read to their organization. If the answer is “no” say “Your timing will begin when your conductor asks you to turn over the music or when he/she opens his/her score.” If the answer is “yes” read the following without embellishment:**

The conductor will be given six minutes (seven minutes for sub-non-varsity choirs) to study the score and instruct your choir. At any time during the instruction period the tonic chord may be played **ONCE in broken OR block chord style in any octave**. The students **may** reproduce the tonic chord. **The conductor** may instruct you by tapping out rhythms and talking about any passage of music but may not hum, sing any part, or allow it to be played on the piano. **The students** may chant rhythms and/or text and tap, clap rhythms and sing or hum the music individually, in small groups or with the full ensemble. You may ask questions and make comments, according to your conductor’s wishes. Neither the conductor nor you, the performers, may mark on the sight-reading music unless instructed to do so by a judge. At the completion

of the instruction period, the students will be given the tonic chord, in broken or block chord style and the students may reproduce the tonic chord, utilizing your organization's preferred method of sight-reading (numbers, syllables, etc.) Your accompanist will then give the starting pitches, which each section may sing, again utilizing your preferred method. The conductor may sing the starting pitch with each section. After your choir has sung its starting pitches, the conductor may **initiate each performance by counting and/or audible cue**. The selection will then be sung without piano accompaniment and using your organization's preferred method of sight-reading. The conductor may choose to read the piece in the printed key or any other key suitable for your group.

Following the first reading, the conductor will have two minutes for instruction. The same procedures described for the first reading will apply. The selection will then be sung a cappella. Your choir may continue to use your preferred method of sight-reading or you may sing the words printed in the score. The conductor's decision to use text or not will have no bearing on the final rating. Both readings will be judged.

Do you have any questions regarding the sight-reading procedure?

Your timing will begin when your conductor instructs you to open your music or when he/she opens his/her score."

At the Conclusion of the Performance:

- Thank the students and ask them to be sure and leave the music (where instructed).
 - Remind them to be sure that they take all their personal items with them as they leave the room.
- Updated for SR Pilot – Spring 2025.**