

Chapter 2: Contest Rules

Subchapter A. ACADEMIC CONTESTS

Section 900: INTRODUCTION TO HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC CONTESTS

- (a) **PURPOSE.** The purposes of The University Interscholastic League Academic contests are to motivate students through comprehensive competitions, challenge students to think critically and provide students with the opportunity to demonstrate mastery of essential knowledge and skills.
- (b) **HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC CONTESTS.**
- (1) Accounting
 - (2) Barbara Jordan Historical Essay Competition
 - (3) Calculator Applications
 - (4) Computer Applications
 - (5) Computer Science
 - (6) Congress
 - (7) Current Issues and Events
 - (8) Young Filmmakers Festival
 - (9) Latino History Essay Competition
 - (10) Literary Criticism
 - (11) Mathematics
 - (12) Number Sense
 - (13) Ready Writing
 - (14) Science
 - (15) Social Studies
 - (16) Spelling and Vocabulary
 - (17) Cross-Examination Team Debate
 - (18) Lincoln-Douglas Debate
 - (19) Extemporaneous Informative Speaking
 - (20) Extemporaneous Persuasive Speaking
 - (21) Poetry Interpretation
 - (22) Prose Interpretation
 - (23) Editorial Writing
 - (24) Feature Writing
 - (25) Headline Writing
 - (26) News Writing
 - (27) Copy Editing
 - (28) One-Act Play
 - (29) Theatrical Design
 - (30) Robotics

Section 901: ACADEMIC CONTEST ETHICS CODE.

- (a) The Academic Contest Ethics Code shall carry the force of rule. Member school districts, member schools and/or covered school district personnel who violate any of the provisions of this code shall be subject to penalty.

- (1) Participate in contests in the spirit of fairness and sportsmanship, observing all rules – both in letter and in spirit.
 - (2) Sponsor and advise individuals and teams without resorting to unethical tactics, trickery that attempts to skirt the rules or any other unfair tactic that detracts from sound educational principles.
 - (3) Accept decisions of officials and judges without protest and extend protection and courtesy to officials.
 - (4) Regard opponents as guests or hosts while placing personal and/or team integrity above victory at any cost. Maintain grace and poise in victory or defeat. Conduct that berates, intimidates or threatens competitors has no place in interscholastic activities.
 - (5) Provide information or evidence regarding eligibility of any contestant or school to local school administrators or to the appropriate judicial bodies upon request.
 - (6) Understand and appreciate the educational values of competition and abstain from modifying or soliciting another teacher to modify grades for eligibility purposes, knowing that such behavior defeats the character-building purposes of extracurricular competition.
 - (7) Abstain from any practice that makes a student feel pressured to participate in non-school activities.
 - (8) At all times, ensure that competition is relative to a more important overall educational effort, using competition as a tool in the preparation of students for citizenship and successful adulthood.
 - (9) Ensure that UIL Academic district, regional and state meets receive precedence over non-qualifying contests or meets.
 - (10) School districts shall notify the academic regional or state meet director no later than the end of the second school day following academic district or regional competition if a student or a team knows that it will not compete at the next higher academic meet.
- (b) **SALARY/STIPEND.** Any salary or stipend arrangement which makes it to the financial interest of a coach, director or sponsor to win a UIL contest will be in violation of the Academic Ethics Code, and

the member school district, member school and the school district personnel shall be subject to the range of penalties outlined in Sections 27 and 29.

Section 902: GENERAL REGULATIONS

- (a) GENERAL REGULATIONS. General regulations apply to all academic contests beginning at the district meet or qualifying competition and progressing to the regional and/or state meets. Contest procedures and rules may be found in the official contest handbooks for each event.
- (b) ELIGIBILITY. The academic contests identified in Section 900 are open to students in grades 9-12 eligible under Subchapter M. See *One-Act Play Handbook* and *Robotics Handbook* for exceptions.
- (c) ANSWER KEY ERRORS. In the case of an error on the answer key of an objectively scored contest, the contest director (or designee) should notify the UIL office of the nature of the error and/or contact the respective state contest director to seek clarification. Mistakes in the answer key should be corrected, and papers should be judged on correctness rather than on an incorrect answer given in the key.
- (d) VERIFICATION PERIOD. Academic events shall have a verification period conducted according to the contest handbook for each event. The purpose of the verification period is to check for errors in scoring, tabulation and data entry, not to challenge a test or answer key. A student and/or coach not present for the verification period forfeits the opportunity to verify results.
- (e) OFFICIAL RESULTS. At the end of the verification period, results shall be announced as official. Official results are final and cannot be changed.
- (f) SUBMITTING RESULTS. All academic contest results shall be submitted and certified as final in the UIL Academic Meet Online Entry System or other official procedures outlined in that event's handbook. Contestants whose results are not submitted as required shall not advance to the next higher meet.
- (g) RETURNING CONTEST MATERIALS. Testing materials may be returned no sooner than the end of the contest on the last day of the respective week of competitions, following the verification period and announcement of official results, or a date announced by the UIL office.
- (h) QUALIFYING FOR ADVANCEMENT.
 - (1) *Individual Qualification*. Winners in each conference or division qualify to the next highest meet as specified for the contests list-

ed below. Consult the contest handbooks for Theatrical Design, Film, Congress, Robotics, Barbara Jordan Historical Essay Competition and Latino History Essay Competitions regarding qualification. If an individual qualifier cannot compete at the next higher meet, the alternate shall be notified and allowed to compete.

- (A) Two Cross-Examination Debate teams (qualify from district to state).
 - (B) Three Lincoln-Douglas Debate
 - (C) Three Extemporaneous Informative Speaking
 - (D) Three Extemporaneous Persuasive Speaking
 - (E) Three Poetry Interpretation
 - (F) Three Prose Interpretation
 - (G) Three Editorial Writing
 - (H) Three Feature Writing
 - (I) Three Headline Writing
 - (J) Three News Writing
 - (K) Three Copy Editing
 - (L) Three One-Act Plays (two plays qualify from region to state)
 - (M) Three Accounting
 - (N) One Accounting Team*
 - (O) Three Calculator Applications
 - (P) One Calculator Applications Team*
 - (Q) Three Computer Applications
 - (R) Three Computer Science
 - (S) One Computer Science Team*
 - (T) Three Current Issues and Events
 - (U) One Current Issues and Events Team*
 - (V) Three Literary Criticism
 - (W) One Literary Criticism Team*
 - (X) Three Mathematics
 - (Y) One Mathematics Team*
 - (Z) Three Number Sense
 - (AA) One Number Sense Team*
 - (BB) Three Ready Writing
 - (CC) Science: three overall winners and the top scorer in each of the three subject areas
 - (DD) One Science Team*
 - (EE) Three Social Studies
 - (FF) One Social Studies Team*
 - (GG) Three Spelling and Vocabulary
 - (HH) One Spelling and Vocabulary Team*
- *The highest-scoring second place team from each region may advance to the academic regional meet as a wild card. The highest-scoring second place team from each conference may advance to the Academic State Meet as a wild card.

- (2) **Individual Ties.** Ties shall be broken through sixth place for individuals in contests with tiebreaker procedures. Tiebreaking procedures may be found in the contest handbook for each event. After applying tiebreakers, if there is a tie for first place, there is no second place. If there is a tie for second place, there is no third. If there is a tie for third place, there is no fourth place and both third place winners advance to the next higher meet.
- (3) **Team Competition.** In events with an advancing team component, other than Cross-Examination Debate, One-Act Play, Robotics and Theatrical Design, the first place team and a wild card team in each event will advance to the next level of competition. Team members are eligible to compete for individual honors at each level, regardless of whether they advanced as a member of the team or as an individual. If the first place team cannot compete at the next higher meet, the alternate team shall be notified and allowed to compete.
- (A) **Number Of Team Members.** The four highest-ranking members of the winning team will advance to the next higher level of competition. Tiebreaker procedures must be followed through the fourth highest ranking member for advancing teams and potential wild card teams. A school shall have a minimum of three contestants compete in order to participate in the team competition. A first place or wild card academic team may advance only as many members as participated in the qualifying meet.
- (B) **Substituting Team Members.** Only one substitution may be made for team members unable to compete at the next highest level of competition in all team events except One-Act Play. A substitute shall present the contest director a signed Substitute Eligibility Form or a letter certifying eligibility, signed by a school official.
- (C) **Wild Card Team.** Each region's or conference's highest-scoring second place team in team competition events may advance to the next higher meet. Failure to meet the deadline or to submit correct scores disqualifies the advancing teams as wild card representatives.
- (D) **Team Ties.** Team ties shall be broken through third place in all events with a team component. If two or more teams tie for first, second or third place, or the wild card berth, the highest overall net or objective score of the fourth ranking member of the team will be used to break the tie. Should two or more contestants who are the fourth ranking member of the team have the same objective score, then a tie will be declared, and all involved in the tie shall advance. A team that does not contain a fourth member forfeits the right to participate in the tiebreaker. Refer to Section 928(d)(2) for team tiebreakers in Computer Science. Refer to the contest handbook for each event for any other exceptions.
- (i) **NO ADVANCEMENT, SUBSTITUTION OR POINTS IF DISQUALIFIED.** A contestant who is disqualified for violation of a contest rule shall not advance in that contest as an individual or a member of the team to the next higher meet. A team shall not substitute a replacement for the disqualified contestant. A disqualified contestant does not earn points.
- (j) **CONFIDENTIALITY OF CONTEST MATERIALS.** Coaches, contest directors and contestants are responsible for maintaining confidentiality of contest materials. Transfer of information relative to the tests shall be considered a violation of the Academic Ethics Code and subject to penalties as outlined in Sections 27 and 29. Contestants who remove their test entry from the contest area prior to judging will be automatically disqualified.
- (k) **POINTS.**
- (1) **Points Awarded.** At the district, regional, and state meets, points shall be awarded to schools according to the schedule below. The academic championship shall be awarded to the high school that accumulates the highest number of points in events at that meet. The state academic championships will be awarded based on points from all academic state contests.
- (2) **Division Of Points For Ties.** The schools of contestants tied for first place in an academic contest shall add first and second place points and divide equally. The school of the contestant ranking next shall receive third place points. Points for ties for the remaining places shall be decided in the same manner, except that contestants tied for the last place that receives points shall divide equally the points assigned to that place.

(3) **Schedule Of Points.** Points shall be awarded on the following basis:

ACADEMIC CONTEST POINTS

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
SPEECH						
Cross-Ex Debate	20	16	12	10	8	6
Lincoln-Douglas Debate	15	12	10	8	6	4
Informative Speaking	15	12	10	8	6	4
Persuasive Speaking	15	12	10	8	6	4
Poetry Interpretation	15	12	10	8	6	4
Prose Interpretation	15	12	10	8	6	4
Congress*	15	12	10	8	6	4
Top Presiding Officer*	10					
Speech Sweepstakes Points	10	5				

Note: Speech Team Points. 10 points will be awarded to the school that finishes with the most overall points and five points will be awarded to the school that finishes with the second highest number of points in speech events. No Cross-Examination Debate points are awarded at regional meets. Congress points are awarded at the state meet only.

JOURNALISM

Copy Editing	15	12	10	8	6	4
Editorial Writing	15	12	10	8	6	4
Feature Writing	15	12	10	8	6	4
Headline Writing	15	12	10	8	6	4
News Writing	15	12	10	8	6	4
Journalism Sweepstakes Points	10	5				

Note: Journalism Team Points. 10 points will be awarded to the school that finishes with the most overall points and five points will be awarded to the school that finishes with the second highest number of points in the five journalism contests.

THEATRE

One-Act Play						
Ranked Plays from:						
District	20	20	20	15	0	0
Region	20	20	15	0	0	0
State	20	16	12	10	8	6
Individual Awards	10	8	6	0	0	0

Note: One-Act Play Points. The three unranked plays advancing from district (two from region) each receive 20 points. The alternate play receives 15 points. At State One-Act Play, points are awarded through sixth place. Points for individual acting awards are: each best performer receives 10 points; each all-star cast receives eight points; and each honorable mention all-star cast receives six points. An individual acting award assigned to a chorus or other group of players counts as only one individual award and shall be allocated the appropriate points. One-Act Play points shall not be awarded for zone, bi-district or area contests.

Theatrical Design*						
Individual	15	12	10	8	6	4
Group	20	16	12	10	8	6
Film*	20	16	12	10	8	6
Theatre Sweepstakes Points*	10	5				

Note: Theatre Team Points. 10 points will be awarded to the school that finishes with the most overall points and five points will be awarded to the school that finishes with the second highest number of points in the theatre contests only at the state level. Theatrical Design and Film points are awarded at the state meet only.

OTHER ACADEMIC CONTESTS

Accounting	15	12	10	8	6	4
Team Accounting	10	5	0	0	0	0
Barbara Jordan Essay*	10	8	6	4	2	1
Calculator Applications	15	12	10	8	6	4
Team Calculator Applications	10	5	0	0	0	0
Computer Applications	15	12	10	8	6	4
Computer Science	15	12	10	8	6	4
Team Computer Science	20	16	12	0	0	0
Current Issues & Events	15	12	10	8	6	4
Team Current Issues & Events	10	5	0	0	0	0
Latino History Essay*	10	8	6	4	2	1
Literary Criticism	15	12	10	8	6	4

Team Literary Criticism	10	5	0	0	0	0
Mathematics	15	12	10	8	6	4
Team Mathematics	10	5	0	0	0	0
Number Sense	15	12	10	8	6	4
Team Number Sense	10	5	0	0	0	0
Ready Writing	15	12	10	8	6	4
Team Robotics*	20	16	12	10		
Science						
Overall	15	12	10	8	6	4
Team Science	10	5	0	0	0	0
Top Scorer Biology	3	0	0	0	0	0
Top Scorer Chemistry	3	0	0	0	0	0
Top Scorer Physics	3	0	0	0	0	0
Social Studies	15	12	10	8	6	4
Team Social Studies	10	5	0	0	0	0
Spelling & Vocabulary	15	12	10	8	6	4
Team Spelling & Vocabulary	10	5	0	0	0	0

Note: * Indicates points awarded at the state meet only.

(4) **Elementary/Middle/Junior High Points.** Refer to Section 1408 for elementary/middle/junior high point system. Points won by an elementary, middle or junior high school shall not be counted toward the district sweepstakes in a high school meet and vice versa.

(l) **SUNDAY PARTICIPATION.** UIL member schools shall not sponsor students in a UIL contest or an academic contest similar to one offered by the UIL on Sunday. Exceptions:

(1) UIL competitions may be held on Sunday, due to unavoidable circumstances that cause hardship to participating schools, provided they are approved by the UIL office.

(2) School district personnel may instruct high school students and accompany them to school-sanctioned academic competitions held on Sunday that do not count on UIL standing under the provisions listed below.

(A) A student shall not represent a UIL member school in more than four such competitions on Sunday during the school year. **Example:** if a student competes in a tournament scheduled for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, the tournament counts as one of the four allowable Sunday competitions regardless of whether the student competes on Sunday.

(B) The participation of the student, academic coach, sponsor or director shall have prior approval of the superintendent or designated administrator. Students are considered to be representing their school if they are wearing and/or using school equipment or being directed, accompanied, or transported by a school employee or persons on behalf of school personnel.

- (C) Participation is limited to contests that are sponsored by colleges or universities. **Exception:** Robotics
- (D) Students are not prohibited from participating in non-school-sponsored competitions and activities. Parents may take their children to meets provided the school does not pay entry fees or other related expenses and the coaches do not attend the competition. The fact that a tournament entry contains information as to which high school a student attends or information about the high school itself (address, coach, telephone, FAX, etc.) does not in and of itself constitute a violation.
- (E) The following constitute sponsorship:
- (i) The school pays entry fees for contestants or uses activity funds to pay for any or all student expenses.
 - (ii) Student uses school fundraiser dollars to pay for fees, transportation and/or housing expenses.
 - (iii) Student is accompanied by school personnel.
 - (iv) Student is accompanied, directed or transported by a person or persons on behalf of school personnel.
 - (v) Student wears or uses school equipment.
- (F) School district personnel includes any person hired or appointed by the school or its employees who is involved in preparing or assisting the contestant for a contest that is part of the UIL academic program.
- (G) This rule applies only to contests that are part of the UIL Academic Meet Plan. It is not a violation for school district personnel to assist a student in preparation for or participation in a contest that is not part of the UIL Academic Meet Plan.
- (H) Students found to be in violation of the Sunday Participation Rule may be penalized for the current academic year in "germane" academic contests. For example, a student found in violation of the Sunday Participation Rule in Lincoln-Douglas Debate would be penalized in debate only (Lincoln-Douglas and Cross-Examination), not in all speech events, nor in any other UIL academic events.
- (I) The District Executive Committee shall rule on protests and reports of violations concerning the Sunday Participation Rule. Refer to Section 28 (a).
- (m) NON-TRADITIONAL SCHOOL YEARS. (Refer to Section 383).
- (n) AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) USE REPORTING. UIL member schools shall file a report after an AED is used in conjunction with any UIL event, practice and competition, utilizing the online reporting form available on the UIL website.

Section 903: DISTRICT MEET

- (a) ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS. Only schools that are members of the UIL as prescribed in Subchapter D shall be eligible for the district meet.
- (b) MEETS. High school competition shall extend to a state championship in the contests and events listed in Section 902.
- (c) DISTRICT STRUCTURE, HIGH SCHOOL. Academic district assignments shall correspond to those listed in the academic alignments on the UIL website. Junior high, middle and elementary school districts may have separate district organization from high school districts. See Subchapter D.
- (d) DUTIES OF THE ACADEMIC DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.
- (1) *General Responsibilities.* Refer to Section 28 for general responsibilities.
 - (2) *District Representatives.* The UIL office shall name an organizing chair for each academic district committee to call a meeting of all schools in the district to select a chair and the district academic meet director. The UIL office shall be notified of the selections no later than October 1.
 - (3) *List of Other Duties.* Select the site and dates for the meets in accordance with the Official Calendar by November 1. Complete arrangements for conducting the district meet. Arrange the contest and event schedule. Arrange for financing the meet. Solicit entries from each school. See that only those schools on the official list furnished by the UIL office are permitted to enter. Cooperate with the schools in organizing and promoting a district. Adjudicate disputes arising within the district subject to Subchapters E and F, and work toward making the contests worth-

while.

- (4) **Planning Schedule.** The Academic District Executive Committee shall schedule all academic competitions during designated dates on the official UIL calendar. One-Act Play shall be completed prior to the certification deadline posted annually on the UIL website. The committee is urged to follow the recommended Academic Conflict Pattern on the UIL website.
- (5) **Expenses In Academic Activities.** The Academic District Executive Committee has authority to finance its expenses.
- (e) **DUTIES OF THE DISTRICT ACADEMIC MEET DIRECTOR.**
- (1) **List of Duties.** It shall be the duty of the district Cross-Examination Debate director to set up the meet by December 1 and the academic meet director to set up the district academic meet by February 1 in the Academic Meet Online Entry System; secure appropriate facilities; select or arrange for the selection of judges and directors of the contests with the approval of the District Executive Committee and in accordance with individual contest plans; requisition and distribute to contest directors all contest materials furnished by the UIL office; have immediate responsibility for conducting the meet in an orderly manner; certify results online by 5 p.m. of the day following the academic meet; and serve on the Regional Executive Committee. For responsibilities relating to Cross-Examination Team Debate, Refer to Section 1001.
- (2) The district academic meet director is expected to notify all member schools regarding the scheduled dates of the meet, but each school has the final responsibility for ascertaining the dates and schedule.
- (f) **ENTERING DISTRICT ACADEMIC EVENTS.**
- (1) **Entries of Contestants.** See each contest plan for the number of students a school may enter and specific entry requirements. The designated administrator of a school shall be responsible for submitting via the UIL Academic Meet Online Entry System entries of contestants in the academic meet no later than 10 calendar days before the day of the meet. For each contest, all participants must compete at the same time and contest site.
- (2) **Substitutions.**
- (A) Students Whose Names Do Not Appear on Academic, Cross-Examination Debate or One-Act Play Online Entry Forms. Eligible students may serve as substitutes for an original entry by providing the contest director with a Substitute Eligibility Form found on the UIL website or a letter signed by the designated administrator certifying the student's eligibility. The substitution form or letter shall be presented to the contest director before the student competes. At the conclusion of the meet, the contest director shall submit all substitution forms or letters to the district academic meet director to be filed with the school's original online entry form.
- (B) Students Whose Names Appear on Academic or One-Act Play Online Entry Forms. Students who have been certified as eligible but who are to be substituted into another event shall provide the contest director with written notification signed by the event sponsor or a representative from the contestant's school. Eligibility is already certified; therefore, written notification is for the convenience of the contest director who may not have a copy of the academic or one-act play forms.
- (C) Refer to Section 1001 for Further Restrictions in Cross-Examination Debate.
- (3) **Late Entries.** Entries submitted after the 10-day deadline require authorization of the district academic meet director. Allowances for late entries shall be consistent for every school within that district. Late entries include the following:
- (A) Late Online Entry. Submitting an online district meet entry form after the deadline constitutes a late entry.
- (B) Late Entry of an Event. Entry of an event not entered by the school prior to the deadline constitutes a late entry.
- (C) Late Entry of an Individual. Entry of an individual to fill a place left vacant on the district meet online entry form after the deadline constitutes a late entry.
- If the approval for a late entry is granted, the coach or contestant shall provide the contest director, prior to the beginning of the contest, a letter signed by the superintendent or designated administrator certifying both the eligibility of the student and the

fact that the District Executive Committee or the district academic meet director has approved the late entry. At the conclusion of the meet, the contest director shall submit the letter to the district academic meet director to be filed with the school's original online entry form.

- (g) **CONTEST MATERIALS.** The district academic meet director shall requisition contest materials necessary for conducting meets from the UIL office by setting up the meet in the Academic Meet Online Entry System and should be completed by December 1 for Cross-Examination Debate and February 1 for academics.

Section 904: REGIONAL MEET

- (a) **ORGANIZATION.** Names of the regional sites and directors are posted on the UIL website. The regional director is expected to exert every effort to notify all member schools in the region of the dates and schedule of the regional meet; however, the designated administrator of each school having qualified representatives is ultimately responsible for ascertaining the dates of the meet and scheduled times for each contest or event.
- (b) **ENTRIES, ALTERNATES AND SUBSTITUTIONS.**
- (1) **Entries.** The district academic meet director's online results constitute a school's official entry in the regional meet for contests advancing from the district meet. Individual school entry is unnecessary. For each contest, all participants must compete at the same time and contest site.
 - (2) **Forms and Fees.** Each regional site may have its own fee structure and instructions for paying fees.
 - (3) **Alternates.** If a qualified contestant placing first, second or third is unable to participate in the regional meet, the qualifier's designated administrator shall notify the district academic meet director in writing. The district academic meet director shall contact the regional director as well as the next lower place finisher, who shall become qualified to represent the district. Once an alternate has been designated as a contestant, the original qualifier is not eligible to be reinstated unless the alternate cannot compete. Alternates who are not taking the place of an absent qualifier shall not be allowed to participate in the competition.

- (4) **Substituting Team Members.** If a qualified team member is unable to participate, refer to Section 902 (h)(3).

- (c) **QUALIFICATION.** District winners in each contest qualify to the regional meet from each conference according to Section 902. Team members, except journalism and speech, are eligible to compete for individual honors at each level, regardless whether they advanced as a member of the team or as an individual.

- (d) **REGIONAL ACADEMIC CHAMPIONSHIP.** The school in each region with the highest total points for all regional level academic events shall be named the regional academic champion and awarded a trophy. Points shall be awarded according to Section 902. No school shall be eligible for the regional academic championship that does not place in more than one event.

- (e) **DUTIES OF THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND REGIONAL DIRECTOR.**

- (1) **Composition of Regional Executive Committee.** Each regional site shall be under the charge of a Regional Executive Committee with a regional director named by the UIL office. The Regional Executive Committee shall consist of a regional director as chair, directors of the regional academic meet and One-Act Play appointed by the regional director and the academic meet district director from each district in the region.
- (2) **Committee Quorum.** The foregoing shall constitute the voting members of the Regional Executive Committee. Five members shall constitute a quorum. If a quorum cannot be assembled, members may be contacted by telephone.
- (3) **List of Duties.**
 - (A) **Regional Committee.** A Regional Executive Committee is subject to Section 28 (e)(j) and (n), as applicable, and Section 30. The Regional Executive Committee shall hold regional contests in the events listed in Section 902; schedule contests within dates specified on the official UIL calendar in compliance with Subchapter L; follow the Academic Conflict Pattern provided on the UIL website; and arrange the meet schedules in the interest of the schools and participants, using as little school time and necessitating as little expense and travel as possible.
 - (B) **Regional Director.** The duties of the Regional Director shall parallel those

of the District Academic Meet Director found in Section 902 (d) and (e), as applicable. The Regional Director shall have charge of arrangements for the contests and appoint other contest directors as necessary. The Regional Director shall identify Academic Meet District Directors from the Regional Executive Committee and participating school representatives who will work with the site contest directors in all aspects of the meet from the planning stages through certification of results.

Section 905: STATE MEET

- (a) ORGANIZATION.
 - (1) *State Meet.* The Academic State Meet is held annually. A tentative schedule of contests and events and information is posted on the UIL website.
 - (2) *School Responsibility.* The designated administrator of each school having qualified representatives is ultimately responsible for ascertaining the dates of the meet and scheduled times for each contest or event.
- (b) ENTRIES, ALTERNATES AND SUBSTITUTIONS.
 - (1) *Entries.* The regional meet director's online results constitute a school's official entry in the state meet for contests advancing from the regional meet. Individual school entry is unnecessary. For each contest, all participants must compete at the same time and contest site. All other state academic events shall follow the process found in the contest plan.
 - (2) *Alternates.* If a qualified contestant placing first, second or third is unable to participate in the state meet, the qualifier's designated administrator shall notify the state director in writing. The UIL office will contact the next lower place finisher, who shall become qualified to represent the region. Once an alternate has been designated as a contestant, the original qualifier is not eligible to be reinstated unless the alternate cannot compete. Alternates who are not taking the place of an absent qualifier shall not participate in the competition.
 - (3) *Substituting Team Members.* If a qualified team member is unable to participate, refer to Section 902 (h)(3).
- (c) QUALIFICATION. Regional winners in each contest qualify to the state meet from each conference

according to Section 902. Team members, except journalism and speech, are eligible to compete for individual honors at each level, regardless of whether they advanced as a member of the team or as an individual. State events without a regional competition will follow the process found in the contest handbook.

- (d) STATE ACADEMIC CHAMPIONSHIP. The school in each conference with the highest total points for all academic events listed in Section 900 with a state competition shall be named the state academic champion for that conference and awarded a trophy. Points shall be awarded according to Section 902. No school shall be eligible for the state academic championship that does not place in more than one event.

Section 906: INVITATIONAL MEETS

- (a) INVITATIONAL MEETS. Invitational meets are those meets hosted by schools to which other schools are invited, irrespective of UIL district and conference assignment, to participate in a practice setting for academic contest activities.
 - (1) *Host School Responsibilities.* The host school has complete authority over entry procedures, rules and administration of contests and activities for the invitational meet. Host schools are urged to include on the meet invitation and entry forms the origin of contest materials to be used (for example, UIL Set A, UIL Set B, or original materials). Host schools should order Invitational Meet materials through the UIL website by the required deadline.
 - (2) *Contest Administration.* To provide maximum benefit for students, invitational contests should be administered as closely as possible to UIL contests, but the final determination of how contests will actually be run rests with the host school.
- (b) IDENTICAL CONTEST MATERIALS. Participating and host schools should be aware that invitational contest materials provided by the UIL office will be used for a designated time period rather than for just one day. If students attend more than one invitational meet during any of the designated time periods, they will be tested on identical materials, unless host schools secure or create original materials. Academic coaches are urged to limit student participation to only one competition using the same set of UIL materials.
- (c) INVITATIONAL MEET MATERIALS. Only those schools hosting meets may purchase UIL invitational materials.

Section 920: HIGH SCHOOL ACCOUNTING CONTEST

- (a) THE CONTEST.
- (1) **Purpose.** The Accounting Contest prepares students in principles and practices of accounting for sole proprietorships, partnerships and corporations.
 - (2) **Format.** The contest may include bookkeeping terminology, the worksheet with adjustments, income statement, balance sheet, trial balance, account classification, journalizing, posting, bank reconciliation, payroll and other items related to the basic accounting cycle.
 - (3) **Calculators.** Refer to the contest handbook for restrictions on calculators.
- (b) ENTRIES.
- (1) **Individual Competition.** Each member high school may enter as many as six individuals in the district meet, which may be limited to a maximum of four individuals with district executive committee approval.
 - (2) **Team Competition.** A school shall have a minimum of three contestants compete in order to participate in the team competition. All four members of the winning team will advance to the next higher level of competition.
- (c) QUALIFICATION. Individuals, teams and wild-cards qualify for the next level of competition according to Section 902.
- (d) TIES.
- (1) **Individual Competition.** No ties are to be broken.
 - (2) **Team Competition.** Refer to Section 902 (h)(3) (D).

Section 924: HIGH SCHOOL CALCULATOR APPLICATIONS CONTEST

- (a) THE CONTEST.
- (1) **Purpose.** The Calculator Applications Contest trains students in efficient problem solving strategies involving calculations in the areas of engineering, science and mathematics.
 - (2) **Format.** The contest includes calculations involving addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, roots, powers, exponentiation, logarithms, trigonometric functions, inverse trigonometric functions, iterative solutions for transcendental equations, differential and integral calculus, elementary statistics and matrix algebra. In addition to straightforward calculation problems, the contest shall include geometric and stated problems similar to those found in recently adopted high school

algebra, geometry, trigonometry, pre-calculus and calculus textbooks, previous contests, and UIL materials related to the contest.

- (3) **Calculators.** Refer to the contest handbook for restrictions on calculators.
- (4) **Late Arrivals.** Qualified contestants not present when the tests are distributed will be disqualified.

(b) ENTRIES.

- (1) **Individual Competition.** Each member high school may enter as many as six individuals in the district meet, which may be limited to a maximum of four individuals with district executive committee approval.
- (2) **Team Competition.** A school shall have a minimum of three contestants compete in order to participate in the team competition. All four members of the winning team will advance to the next higher level of competition.

(c) QUALIFICATION. Individuals, teams and wild-cards qualify for the next level of competition according to Section 902.

(d) TIES.

- (1) **Individual Competition.** In the event of a tie, the higher place shall be given to the contestant gaining the most points on stated and geometric problems. If the same number of points are gained on stated and geometric problems, then a tie exists.
- (2) **Team Competition.** Refer to Section 902 (h)(3) (D).

Section 926: HIGH SCHOOL COMPUTER APPLICATIONS CONTEST

(a) THE CONTEST.

- (1) **Purpose.** The Computer Applications Contest prepares students to have a thorough, working knowledge of word processing software applications and to direct data from one application to another with speed and accuracy.
- (2) **Format.** The contest focuses on word processing speed and accuracy, computer skills in database and spreadsheet, and integration of applications. Contestants will have the opportunity to process two printouts and the mandatory tiebreaker.
- (3) **Materials.** Contestants shall provide their own equipment, supplies and software suitable for competition as outlined in the contest handbook.

(b) ENTRIES.

- (1) **Individual Competition.** Each member high

school may enter as many as three individuals in the district meet.

- (2) **Team Competition.** There is no team competition in this event.
- (c) **QUALIFICATION.** Individuals qualify for the next level of competition according to Section 902.
- (d) **TIES.**
 - (1) Ties through sixth place are to be broken through the tiebreaker document. If the percent accuracy scores on the tie breaker are the same, then a tie exists.

Section 928: HIGH SCHOOL COMPUTER SCIENCE CONTEST

- (a) **THE CONTEST.**
 - (1) **Purpose.** The Computer Science Contest challenges students to study a broad range of areas in computer science, to gain an understanding of the significance of computation as well as the details of programming, to be alert to new technology and information in computer science, to gain an understanding of the basic principles as well as knowledge of the history and philosophy of computer science and to foster a sense of enthusiasm about computer science.
 - (2) **Format.**
 - (A) **Test Questions.** The written exam for individual and team contestants and a programming session for teams will focus on computer science programming knowledge and skills rather than on mathematical engineering or other subject applications.
 - (B) **Materials.** For the programming sessions, teams shall bring their own media for submitting solutions to judges when applicable. Teams shall be prepared to bring a computer to use for competition, including all necessary hardware, cables and software. Each team may use only one computer during the contest. A printer may be used but is not required. Refer to the *Computer Science Handbook* and UIL website for additional guidelines.
 - (C) **Calculators.** Calculators are not permitted. During the programming portion of the contest, a computer's included calculation functions may be used.
- (b) **ENTRIES.**
 - (1) **Individual Competition.** Each member high school may enter as many as six individuals

in the district meet, which may be limited to a maximum of four individuals with district executive committee approval.

- (2) **Team Competition.** A school shall have a minimum of three contestants compete in order to participate in the team competition, which shall include a written exam and a team programming session. All team members shall take the written exam. For teams with four members, the team's coach shall decide which three members will participate in programming. Schools that do not participate in the programming session shall not qualify for team placement, points or advancement, unless only one school entered enough contestants for team competition. If only one team is entered, conducting the programming session is encouraged but not required.

- (c) **QUALIFICATION.** Individuals, teams and wild-cards qualify for the next level of competition according to Section 902.

- (d) **TIES**
 - (1) **Individual Competition.** In the event of a tie, the formula for percent accuracy shall be used to break the tie. The formula is: percent accuracy equals number of problems correct divided by number of problems attempted. The contestant with the highest percent accuracy shall be awarded the higher place. If the percent accuracy scores are the same, then a tie exists.
 - (2) **Team Competition.** If two or more teams tie for first, second or third place, the scores in the programming session will be considered first. If a tie still exists, the scores on the written exam will be considered, followed by a total written exam score tiebreaker if necessary. For four-member teams, the total written exam score tiebreaker means adding in the fourth score. For three-member teams no additional score is added. The team with the highest total written exam score wins the tiebreaker. If a tie still exists, it will not be broken.

Section 932: HIGH SCHOOL CURRENT ISSUES AND EVENTS CONTEST

- (a) **THE CONTEST.**
 - (1) **Purpose.** The Current Issues and Events Contest focuses on basic knowledge of current state, national and world events/issues

through the study of national and international online news sites and/or hard copy, daily newspapers, specialized periodicals, weekly news magazines, journals of political or social nature, and other periodicals that report, summarize or explain world events.

- (2) **Format.** The contest will consist of objective questions and an essay assessing knowledge of important domestic and international issues, events and personalities.
- (3) **Essay.** Contestants who fail to submit an essay shall be disqualified. A judge or judges will evaluate the essays of the eight contestants with the highest scores in the objective portion of the test. If a tie occurs for the eighth slot, then essays of all contestants tied for eighth will be judged. The score will be added to the point total from the objective portion of the test, resulting in an overall score.

(b) ENTRIES.

- (1) **Individual Competition.** Each member high school may enter as many as six individuals in the district meet, which may be limited to a maximum of four individuals with district executive committee approval.
- (2) **Team Competition.** A school shall have a minimum of three contestants compete in order to participate in the team competition. All four members of the winning team will advance to the next higher level of competition.

(c) **QUALIFICATION.** Individuals, teams and wild-cards qualify for the next level of competition according to Section 902.

(d) TIES.

- (1) **Individual Competition.** All ties shall be broken through sixth place. If a tie exists after the grading of the essays, then those essays involved in the tie will be judged one against the other(s) to break the tie. When a tie occurs, those contestants who are tied shall be awarded a place before any other places are awarded.
- (2) **Team Competition.** Refer to Section 902 (h)(3) (D).

Section 940: HIGH SCHOOL LITERARY CRITICISM CONTEST

(a) THE CONTEST.

- (1) **Purpose.** The Literary Criticism Contest challenges students to acquire a thorough knowledge of literary history and of critical terms, and encourages development of abili-

ties through critically thinking about literary texts.

- (2) **Format.** The contest will consist of objective questions and an essay assessing knowledge of literary history and of critical terms, and ability in literary criticism. Students are tested over material on the reading list announced annually on the UIL website and shall also analyze literary passages from works not on the reading list.

- (3) **Essay.** Contestants who fail to submit an essay shall be disqualified. The essay will be evaluated only for contestants with tied objective portion scores in order to break the ties for students ranking through sixth place. Although the essay section is required of all contestants, no points will be awarded.

(b) ENTRIES.

- (1) **Individual Competition.** Each member high school may enter as many as six individuals in the district meet, which may be limited to a maximum of four individuals with district executive committee approval.

- (2) **Team Competition.** A school shall have a minimum of three contestants compete in order to participate in the team competition. All four members of the winning team will advance to the next higher level of competition.

(c) **QUALIFICATION.** Individuals, teams and wild-cards qualify for the next level of competition according to Section 902.

(d) TIES.

- (1) **Individual Competition.** All ties shall be broken through sixth place. If two or more contestants are tied, three judges who are not coaches of the tied contestants will rank the essays and give the higher rank to the contestant with the better essay based on judging criteria in the contest handbook.

- (2) **Team Competition.** Refer to Section 902 (h)(3) (D).

Section 942: HIGH SCHOOL MATHEMATICS CONTEST

(a) THE CONTEST.

- (1) **Purpose.** The Mathematics Contest is intended to encourage interest in math, to develop talent in problem solving skills and to inspire students to excel in all areas of mathematics.

- (2) **Format.** The contest will consist of objec-

tive questions designed to test knowledge and understanding in the areas of Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Pre-calculus, AP Calculus (BC), AP Statistics, and director's choice topics.

- (3) **Calculators.** Refer to the contest handbook for restrictions on calculators.

(b) ENTRIES.

- (1) **Individual Competition.** Each member high school may enter as many as six individuals in the district meet, which may be limited to a maximum of four individuals with district executive committee approval.

- (2) **Team Competition.** A school shall have a minimum of three contestants compete in order to participate in the team competition. All four members of the winning team will advance to the next higher level of competition.

- (c) **QUALIFICATION.** Individuals, teams and wild-cards qualify for the next level of competition according to Section 902.

(d) TIES.

- (1) **Individual Competition.** In the event of a tie, the formula for percent accuracy shall be used to break the tie. The formula is: percent accuracy equals number of problems correct divided by number of problems attempted. The contestant with the highest percent accuracy shall be awarded the higher place. If the percent accuracy scores are the same, then a tie exists.

- (2) **Team Competition.** Refer to Section 902 (h)(3) (D).

Section 944: HIGH SCHOOL NUMBER SENSE CONTEST

(a) THE CONTEST.

- (1) **Purpose.** The Number Sense Contest emphasizes the mental processes used to achieve mathematical calculations with no help from calculators, computers, or pen and paper, and to develop the use of specific techniques and strategies to make mathematical judgments and develop useful strategies for handling numbers and operations.

- (2) **Format.** The contest will consist of questions testing mental calculations of concepts from basic mathematics, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, analysis, number theory and calculus. Types of problems and concepts can be found on the Problem Sequencing Chart for the UIL High School Number Sense Test.

- (3) **Late Arrivals.** Qualified contestants not pres-

ent when the tests are distributed will be disqualified.

(b) ENTRIES.

- (1) **Individual Competition.** Each member high school may enter as many as four individuals in the district meet, or a maximum of six individuals with district executive committee approval.

- (2) **Team Competition.** A school shall have a minimum of three contestants compete in order to participate in the team competition. All four members of the winning team will advance to the next higher level of competition.

- (c) **QUALIFICATION.** Individuals, teams and wild-cards qualify for the next level of competition according to Section 902.

(D) TIES.

- (1) **Individual Competition.** No ties are to be broken.

- (2) **Team Competition.** Refer to Section 902 (h)(3) (D).

Section 948: HIGH SCHOOL READY WRITING CONTEST

(a) THE CONTEST.

- (1) **Purpose.** The Ready Writing Contest builds students' skills and helps refine writing abilities through writing expository compositions, which explain, prove or explore a topic in a balanced way, allowing the argument and the evidence given to be the deciding factor in the paper.

- (2) **Format.** This contest gives contestants a choice between two prompts, each an excerpt from literature, publications (past and present), or speeches from which to write an expository composition.

- (3) **Use of Computers.** If contestants choose to use their own laptop/computers, they shall bring a portable printer, associated hardware, software and paper. Spell check, thesaurus and dictionary functions may be used if available on the computers. Students who opt to compose their entries on computers accept the risk of computer malfunction. In case of computer malfunction, the contestant may use the remaining allotted time to complete the composition in hand writing or compose on another computer (if available). When printing the contest on an electronic printer, the print command shall be started by the time contest time expires. Once time

has expired, participants and coaches shall not disconnect or connect computer equipment or enter new commands in an effort to print the entry. District or regional host sites may provide computers for contestants but are not expected to make those provisions. Computers will not be provided at state, but contestants by use their own laptops and portable printers.

- (4) **Writing By Hand.** Contestants who are handwriting their compositions shall use their own standard 8 1/2 x 11-inch ruled white notebook paper or typing paper or the paper provided by the host school. Contestants shall write or print the composition in ink and on only one side of the paper.
 - (5) **Thesaurus and Dictionary.** Contestants may use a printed thesaurus and dictionary or may use spell check, dictionary and thesaurus functions of a laptop during the contest. No other resource materials may be used during the contest.
- (b) **ENTRIES.**
- (1) **Individual Competition.** Each member high school may enter as many as three individuals in the district meet.
 - (2) **Team Competition.** There is no team competition in this event.
- (c) **QUALIFICATION.** Individuals qualify for the next level of competition according to Section 902.
- (d) **TIES.** There can be no ties in this contest. Judges shall rank papers in order of their excellence through sixth place.

Section 952: HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE CONTEST

- (a) **THE CONTEST.**
- (1) **Purpose.** The Science Contest challenges students in the basic fundamental principles of science, promotes learning in biology, chemistry, and physics, fosters a sense of enthusiasm about advanced topics and courses in the sciences and prepares students for the rigor of college level courses.
 - (2) **Format.** The contest will consist of objective questions designed to test comprehension of fundamental principles in biology, chemistry and physics. Papers may be turned in 30 minutes after the start of the contest.
 - (3) **Calculators.** Refer to the contest handbook for restrictions on calculators.
- (b) **ENTRIES.**
- (1) **Individual Competition.** Each member high

school may enter as many as six individuals in the district meet.

- (2) **Team Competition.** A team shall have a minimum of three contestants compete in order to participate in the team competition. The four highest scoring members of the winning team will advance to the next higher level of competition.
- (c) **QUALIFICATION.** Individuals, teams and wild-cards qualify for the next level of competition according to Section 902. Contestants with the top score in each area (biology, chemistry, physics) qualify for the next higher competition and are eligible to compete equally with the overall winners. One alternate is named for each top scorer position. See ties below.
- (d) **TIES**
- (1) **Individual Competition.** In the event of a tie, the formula for percent accuracy shall be used to break the tie. The formula is: percent accuracy equals number of problems correct divided by the number of problems attempted. The contestant with the highest percent accuracy shall be awarded the higher place. If the percent accuracy scores are the same, then a tie exists.
 - (2) **Top Scorers.** In the event of a tie for the top score in biology, chemistry or physics, the formula for percent accuracy within the subject area shall be used to break the tie. The formula is: percent accuracy equals number of problems correct divided by the number of problems attempted. The contestant with the highest percent accuracy shall be awarded the higher place. If the percent accuracy scores are the same, then a tie exists.
 - (3) **Team Competition.** Refer to Section 902 (h)(3) (D).

Section 956: HIGH SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES

- (a) **THE CONTEST.**
- (1) **Purpose.** The Social Studies Contest challenges students to read widely and deeply in the areas of social studies in order to: expand and apply their understanding of the nature of geography and the physical setting of the earth to physical and cultural environments; expand and apply their understanding of the governmental systems; and expand and apply their understanding of historical trends, movements and eras, the impact and significant of time and place, cause and effect, and

change over time.

- (2) **Format.** The contest will consist of objective questions and an essay assessing knowledge of history, geography, civics and economics. Students are tested over material based on a theme announced annually on the UIL website.
 - (3) **Essay.** Contestants who fail to submit an essay shall be disqualified. A judge or judges will evaluate the essays of the eight contestants with the highest scores in the objective portion of the test. If a tie occurs for the eighth slot, then essays of all contestants tied for eighth will be judged. The score will be added to the point total from the objective portion of the test, resulting in an overall score.
- (b) ENTRIES.
- (1) **Individual Competition.** Each member high school may enter as many as six individuals in the district meet, which may be limited to a maximum of four individuals with district executive committee approval.
 - (2) **Team Competition.** A school shall have a minimum of three contestants compete in order to participate in the team competition. All four members of the winning team will advance to the next higher meet.
- (c) QUALIFICATION: Individuals, teams and wildcards qualify for the next level of competition according to Section 902.
- (d) TIES.
- (1) **Individual Competition.** All ties shall be broken through sixth place. If a tie exists after the grading of the essays, then those essays involved in the tie will be judged one against the other(s) to break the tie.
 - (2) **Team Competition.** Refer to Section 902 (h)(3) (D).

Section 960: HIGH SCHOOL SPELLING AND VOCABULARY

- (a) THE CONTEST.
- (1) **Purpose.** The UIL Spelling and Vocabulary Contest promotes vocabulary development and precise and effective use of words.
 - (2) **Format.** The contest consists of objective questions of proofreading and vocabulary and words that are written from dictation.
 - (3) **Word Sources.** At least 80 percent of the test will come from *UIL Word Power*. Outside words may include: words of common usage (e.g., gosling, hemorrhage); words and proper names currently in the news; and words

which by their formation or origins build vocabulary and promote the study of English. These include words with affixes, roots and suffixes that appear in words on the printed list by being different parts of speech, and other words of interest for the general lessons, which teach about language.

- (b) ENTRIES.
- (1) **Individual Competition.** Each member high school may enter as many as six individuals in the district meet, which may be limited to a maximum of four individuals with district executive committee approval.
 - (2) **Team Competition.** A school shall have a minimum of three contestants compete in order to participate in the team competition. All four members of the winning team will advance to the next higher level of competition.
- (c) QUALIFICATION. Individuals, teams and wildcards qualify for the next level of competition according to Section 902.
- (d) TIES.
- (1) **Individual Competition.** If a tie exists for first through sixth place, the score on Part III of the test shall be used to break the tie and determine the winner. If a tie still exists, then it will not be broken.
 - (2) **Team Competition.** Refer to Section 902 (h)(3) (D).

Section 965: BARBARA JORDAN HISTORICAL ESSAY COMPETITION

- (a) THE CONTEST.
- (1) **Purpose.** The purpose of the Barbara Jordan Historical Essay Competition is to provide students an opportunity to explore the contributions of African Americans to Texas history. Essays should focus on individuals or groups who are not well-known figures but who have made positive, significant contributions to African American history or culture in Texas. Students should look first to their local communities for possible essay topics.
 - (2) **Format.** Research paper format required. Guidelines and minimum standards will be posted on the UIL website. Essays should display original research; use of primary sources and interviews strongly encouraged.
- (b) ENTRIES
- (1) **Representation.** Any student in grades 9-12 who attends a UIL member high school is eligible to enter.
 - (2) **Deadline.** Entries will be submitted electroni-

cally on or before the deadline published on the UIL website.

- (3) *Evaluation.* All entries that meet basic requirements will be included in essay judging. Judges will evaluate each entry and provide comments that will be returned to contestants.
- (c) **QUALIFICATION.** Judges will nominate essays to be considered as state finalists. A selection committee will determine state finalists from among the nominees. All state finalists will be presented state awards and become eligible to apply for Texas Interscholastic League Foundation scholarships.

Section 966: LATINO HISTORY ESSAY COMPETITION

- (a) **THE CONTEST. PURPOSE.**
 - (1) *Purpose.* The purpose of the Latino History Essay Competition is to provide a unique opportunity for high school students to research and record past and present contributions of Latino communities of Texas. Essays should focus on a prominent or relatively unknown Latino individual, organization or movement in Texas history and how the subject of the essay positively and significantly influenced today’s Latino communities.
 - (2) *Format.* Research paper format required. Guidelines and minimum standards will be posted on the UIL website. Essays should display original research; use of primary sources and interviews strongly encouraged.
- (b) **ENTRIES**
 - (1) *Representation.* Any student in grades 9-12 who attends a UIL member high school is eligible to enter.
 - (2) *Deadline.* Entries will be submitted electronically on or before the deadline published on the UIL website.
 - (3) *Evaluation.* All entries that meet basic requirements will be included in essay judging. Judges will evaluate each entry and provide comments that will be returned to contestants.
- (c) **QUALIFICATION.** Judges will nominate essays to be considered as state finalists. A selection committee will determine state finalists from among the nominees. All state finalists will be presented state awards and become eligible to apply for Texas Interscholastic League Foundation scholarships.

Section 970: ROBOTICS

- (a) **THE CONTEST.**

- (1) *Purpose.* Robotics incorporates numerous STEM components that develop beneficial knowledge and skills for students, including mechanical and software engineering, computer programming and mathematics. Participation in robotics fosters creativity and innovation, while teaching students to work collaboratively and to think critically and analytically.
- (2) *Format.* The contest structure shall be as specified in the current *UIL Robotics Handbook*.
- (b) **ENTRIES.** Each member school shall be allowed to enter contestants as specified in the current *UIL Robotics Handbook*.
- (c) **QUALIFICATION.** Criteria for advancement shall be as specified in the current *UIL Robotics Handbook*. Advancing contestants shall qualify to participate in the UIL Robotics State Championships.

Section 1000: SPEECH

- (a) **EVENTS AND ENTRIES.** The UIL speech program shall consist of events divided into three basic skill categories: debate, oral interpretation and extemporaneous speaking. Students are permitted to enter two events in speech, and Cross-Examination Team Debate (see [b] Scheduling). The eligibility section requirements of each contest shall be met and no more than one event shall be selected from each of the following categories:
 - (1) *Debate.*
 - (A) Cross-Examination Team Debate
 - (B) Lincoln-Douglas
 - (2) *Interpretation.*
 - (A) Prose Interpretation
 - (B) Poetry Interpretation
 - (3) *Extemporaneous Speaking.*
 - (A) Informative Speaking
 - (B) Persuasive Speaking
 - (4) *Prohibited Double Entries.*

<u>If You Enter:</u>	<u>You May Not Enter These Contests:</u>
Team Debate	Lincoln-Douglas Debate
Lincoln-Douglas Debate	Team Debate, Prose Interpretation, Poetry Interpretation
Prose Interpretation	Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Poetry Interpretation
Poetry Interpretation	Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Prose Interpretation
Informative Speaking	Persuasive Speaking
Persuasive Speaking	Informative Speaking

Note. There is no restriction on entering Congress in addition to other speech or academic events.

- (b) **SCHEDULING.** In addition to restrictions of individual contest plans, it is imperative that students and academic coaches become familiar with the

Academic Conflict Pattern when selecting contests for competition. This pattern is provided on the UIL website. Students who want to double enter may request that they be allowed to speak first or second in a section but may not request to be placed in the bottom one-half of the section. If the double entry is not prohibited above, contest directors may allow the double entry if the necessary accommodations do not inconvenience other contestants. Contest directors are to use their best judgment in the matter. There shall be no protest of their decisions.

- (c) **RECORDING.** Schools and/or individuals are prohibited from recording (audio and/or video) speech contests. The UIL reserves the right to record for educational purposes.

Section 1001: CROSS-EXAMINATION TEAM DEBATE

(a) **THE CONTEST.**

- (1) **Purpose.** The purpose of this contest is to train the student to analyze a problem, conduct thorough and relevant research, and utilize principles of argumentation and advocacy in orally presenting the most effective case for or against a given proposition.
- (2) **Format.** Round robin or multiple preliminary rounds leading to an elimination bracket. Each round includes approximately 90 minutes of oral arguments in a structured format debating a policy resolution provided on the UIL website. Each two-member team shall argue the affirmative side of the resolution as well as the negative side of the resolution.

(b) **ENTRIES.**

- (1) **Representation.** The debates shall be conducted in one division in each conference. In all conferences a school may enter in its district meet three, two-member teams. In districts where fewer than a total of eight teams are competing, each school with a full entry may enter a fourth team.
- (2) **Eligibility.** Students who graduate during the year are eligible for UIL post-district competition if they have qualified for that competition on or before the date they graduate. Team debaters shall not enter Lincoln-Douglas debate.
- (3) **Substitutions.**
- (A) A debate team shall consist of two members. If a team member is substituted at the State Meet, the remaining debater shall be a member of the original team

that qualified at the district meet to advance to the State Meet.

- (B) **Limit on Substitutions.** After a given tournament has begun, no substitutions will be allowed. The contest director is empowered to disqualify a team for substituting after a tournament has begun.
- (4) **Failure to Compete at District.** Disqualification from the Cross-Examination Debate Contest for the current academic year may result if an academic coach fails to notify the district contest director, in a timely manner prior to the meet, that a team will not compete and such violations may be grounds for suspension from team debate for the following year.
- (5) **Alternates.** In the event that neither member of the original qualifying team can compete, then the alternate team shall be notified and permitted to advance. Alternates in districts with fewer than 8 teams competing or in districts with only one school competing are subject to the certification requirements. An academic coach who fails to notify the state contest director that a team will not compete is in violation of the Academic Contest Ethics Code and the school shall be disqualified from team debate for the current academic competition and such violations may be grounds for suspension from team debate for the following year.
- (c) **THE RESOLUTION.** The resolution for debate during the current school year shall be posted on the UIL website.
- (d) **SCOUTING.**
- (1) **Debates Shall Be Public.** Debate, by its very nature, is public. Therefore, all debates in UIL district and state competition shall be open to the public, with the exception of debate teams competing in that tournament. Competing debaters shall not observe rounds of district or state competition in which they are not debating.
- (2) **Notes.** With the exception of the final debate in district and state competition, only the judge and the four student participants shall take notes. For example, anyone may take notes in the debates that determine first and second place, and third and fourth place. Refer to Section 1000 (c) regarding taping and filming.
- (3) **Sharing of Notes.** During a tournament, par-

ticipants or judges may not give or accept notes taken during that tournament. For example, a judge or a debater participating in the district contest is neither allowed to give nor accept notes regarding any rounds in that tournament from anyone else during that tournament.

- (4) **Penalty for Debaters.** Violation by debaters of the scouting rule is grounds for disqualification of the debate team from the current competition. The contest director shall be empowered with the final decision in questions concerning scouting. Such violations may be grounds for suspension of the school from team debate for the following year.
 - (5) **Penalty for Coaches.** Violation by coaches of the scouting rule is grounds for disqualification of their teams from the current competition. Coaches who violate scouting rules will also be subject to the full range of penalties as outlined in Sections 27 and 29, and such violations may be grounds for suspension of the school from team debate for the following year.
- (e) **COACHING FOR DEBATE.**
- (1) **Coaching Before the Meet.** Aside from the bulletins furnished by the UIL office and other reading matter, the assistance furnished to contestants in preparing debates should not exceed the following:
 - (A) aid in outlining the arguments;
 - (B) citing sources of information; and
 - (C) suggestions as to delivery.
 - (2) **Coaching During a Debate.** In all contests, the debaters shall be separated from the audience and shall receive no coaching while the debate is in progress. *Viva voce* or other prompting either by the speaker's colleague or by any other person while the debater has the floor is prohibited. Debaters may, however, refer to their notes and materials and may consult with their teammates while they do not have the floor.
 - (3) **Penalty for Prompting.** If prompting occurs during a round, the team in violation of the prompting rule shall be assigned a loss in the round in which the prompting took place. Time signals are not considered prompting.
- (f) **QUESTIONS.**
- (1) Questions shall be directed to the contest director before the decision of the judges is announced. The decision of the meet officials in these matters is final. No arguments with the judges will be permitted.
 - (2) Excessive abuse by either contestants or their

coaches shall be reason for disqualification of that school and its contestants for the current competition and may be grounds for suspension for the following year.

Section 1002: LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE

- (a) **THE CONTEST.** Lincoln-Douglas debate provides excellent training for development of skills in argumentation, persuasion, research and audience analysis.
 - (1) **Purpose.** Lincoln-Douglas debate is an oral one-on-one argumentation in which debaters attempt to convince the judge of the acceptability of their side of a proposition with a communicative style of delivery. One debater shall argue the affirmative side of the resolution, and one debater shall argue the negative side of the resolution in a given round.
 - (2) **Format.** Round robin or multiple preliminary rounds leading to an elimination bracket. Each round is approximately 40 minutes. One debater shall argue the affirmative side of the value resolution, and one debater shall argue the negative side of the value resolution in a given round. Each debater will argue both sides of the resolution within the tournament format.
- (b) **ENTRIES.**
 - (1) **Representation.** The debates shall be conducted in one division in each conference. In all conferences, a school may enter three individuals in its district meet. In districts where fewer than a total of eight debaters are competing, each school with a full entry may enter a fourth debater.
 - (2) **Eligibility.** The student may not enter more than two speech events; and when entered in Lincoln-Douglas, the second speech event may not be Cross-Examination team debate, prose or poetry. Refer to Section 1000.
 - (3) **Substitutions.** During the district meet, substitutions shall not be allowed after a given tournament has begun. Substitutions shall not be allowed after the district meet.
 - (4) **Failure to Compete at District.** Disqualification from the Lincoln-Douglas Debate Contest for the current academic year may result if an academic coach fails to notify the district contest director, in a timely manner prior to the meet, that a debater will not compete and such may be grounds for suspension from Lincoln-Douglas debate for the follow-

- ing year.
- (5) *Alternates*. When a debater who qualified for the next higher meet cannot participate in the next higher meet, the alternate should be notified. A coach or designee who fails to notify the regional and/or state contest directors that a student will not compete is in violation of the Academic Contest Ethics Code and the school shall be disqualified from Lincoln-Douglas debate for the current academic competition, and such violations may be grounds for suspension from Lincoln-Douglas debate for the following year.
- (c) **THE LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE RESOLUTION**. Two topics for debate, one for fall and one for spring, provided by the UIL office, shall be posted during the course of the school year on the UIL website.
- (d) **SCOUTING**.
- (1) *Debates Shall Be Public*. Debate, by its very nature, is public. Therefore, all debates in UIL district, regional and state competition shall be open to the public, with the exception of debaters competing in that tournament. Competing debaters shall not observe rounds of district, region, or state competition in which they are not debating.
 - (2) *Notes*. With the exception of the final debate in district, regional and state competition, only the judge and the two student participants shall take notes. For example, anyone may take notes in the debates that determine first and second place, and third and fourth place. Refer to Section 1000 (c) regarding taping and filming.
 - (3) *Sharing of Notes*. During a tournament, participants or judges may not give or accept notes taken during that tournament. For example, a judge or a debater participating in the district contest is neither allowed to give nor accept notes regarding any rounds in that tournament from anyone else during that tournament.
 - (4) *Penalty for Debaters*. Violation by debaters of the scouting rule is grounds for disqualification of the debater from the current competition. The contest director shall be empowered with the final decision in questions concerning scouting. Such violations may be grounds for suspension of the school from Lincoln-Douglas debate for the following year.

- (5) *Penalty for Coaches*. Violation by coaches of the scouting rule is grounds for disqualification of their debaters from the current competition. Coaches who violate scouting rules will also be subject to the full range of penalties as outlined in Sections 27 and 29, and such violations may be grounds for suspension of the school from Lincoln-Douglas debate for the following year.
- (e) **QUESTIONS**.
- (1) Questions shall be directed to the contest director before the official decision of the judges is announced. The decision of the meet officials in these matters is final. No arguments with the judges will be permitted.
 - (2) Excessive abuse by either the contestant or the coach shall be reason for disqualification of that school and its contestant for the current competition and may be grounds for suspension for the following year.

Section 1003: INDIVIDUAL SPEECH CONTESTS

- (a) **PURPOSE**. The purpose of each of the individual speech contests is to stimulate the student's ability to communicate ideas and information to an audience. In the extemporaneous informative speaking and extemporaneous persuasive speaking contests, these ideas are essentially those of the speaker, derived from the speaker's background of research on current events. In poetry interpretation and prose interpretation, the student is challenged to ascertain and communicate the ideas of an author through a literary selection, based on the student's understanding and research.
- (b) **GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**.
- (1) *Sections*. A section shall consist of no more than eight contestants. If nine or more students enter a single contest, preliminary and final rounds shall be held. Preliminary round sections shall be divided as equally as possible. The following chart shall be used to determine the number of sections and finalists in each section:

No. Entries	Preliminaries	Participants Advancing to Final Round
1- 8	None*	Final Round
9-16	2 Sections	1st, 2nd, 3rd from each section
15-24	3 Sections	1st, 2nd from each section
20-32	4 Sections	1st, 2nd from each section
32-39	8 Sections	1st from each section

* If desired, a preliminary round may be held.

Contestants should be entered on the district

online entry form according to strength. Contest directors should section by distributing first, second and third place district entries as equally as possible, avoiding when possible, placing contestants from the same school in the same section. At the regional level, first, second and third place district winners should be distributed as equally as possible throughout the sections.

Section 1004: EXTEMPORANEOUS INFORMATIVE SPEAKING

- (a) THE CONTEST.
- (1) **Purpose.** The purpose of this contest is to stimulate an active interest in current affairs at the state, national and international levels, and to teach the student to present extemporaneously in a clear and impartial manner the facts about a subject as they appear in the best available sources of information. This contest is an exercise in clear thinking and informing the public on the issues and concerns of the American people. The objective is to present information orally in an interesting way, and an attempt should not be made to change the listener's mind beyond presenting the information.
 - (2) **Format.** Contestants draw five topics, select one and have thirty minutes to prepare an informative speech on the topic. Topics shall be based on current news events and include topics from state, national and international levels. They will be chosen from the general areas of political, social, economic, educational and cultural interests. The speaker is obligated to elicit an informative response. The limit for the oral speech is seven minutes maximum.
- (b) ENTRIES.
- (1) **Representation.** Each member school in all conferences may enter three students in the contest.
 - (2) **Eligibility.** Only students in high school are eligible for this contest. Contestants shall not compete in district in more than one extemporaneous event in the same year. See Subchapter M and Section 1000, Eligibility Rules.
- (c) RESOURCE. The contest rules and procedures are discussed in detail in the UIL *Informative and Persuasive Speaking Handbook* and on the UIL website. Coaches are responsible for reviewing this publication in advance of the contest.
- (d) LENGTH OF SPEECHES. Informative speeches shall not be longer than seven minutes. There shall

be no minimum time. The speaker may complete only the sentence that is in progress without disqualification, after the allotted time has expired. The responsibility of keeping within the seven-minute time limit rests with the contestant.

- (e) RESTRICTION ON NOTES. A speaker is allowed to use one notecard, but not required to do so. If used, the notecard shall be no larger than 3x5" when delivering the speech. No limit is placed on the quantity of information on that one card. Use of more than one notecard shall result in disqualification. All source citations orally delivered in the speech should be legitimate.
- (f) ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN THE PREP ROOM. The use of laptop and other electronic retrieval devices by competitors in UIL Extemporaneous Speaking is allowed so long as wired or wireless connections are disabled and remain disabled throughout the contest. Cell phones, smartphones and smartwatches are prohibited in the preparation room.
- (g) QUESTIONS. Questions shall be made to the contest director before the decision of the judges is rendered. The decisions of the meet officials in these matters are final.

Section 1005: EXTEMPORANEOUS PERSUASIVE SPEAKING

- (a) THE CONTEST.
- (1) **Purpose.** The purpose of this contest is to stimulate an active interest in current affairs at the state, national and international levels and to train students to analyze a current issue, determine a point of view, and then organize and deliver extemporaneously a speech that seeks to persuade listeners to agree with that viewpoint. The objective is to reinforce the views of listeners who already believe as the speaker does, but even more so, to bring those of neutral or opposing views around to the speaker's beliefs or proposed course of action.
 - (2) **Format.** Contestants draw five topics, select one and have thirty minutes to prepare a persuasive speech on the topic. Topics shall be based on current news events and include topics from state, national and international levels. They will be chosen from the general areas of political, social, economic, educational and cultural interests. The speaker is obligated to elicit a persuasive response. The limit for the oral speech is seven minutes maximum.
- (b) ENTRIES.

- (1) **Representation.** Each member school in all conferences may enter three students in the contest.
- (2) **Eligibility.** Only students in high school are eligible for this contest. Contestants shall not compete in district in more than one extemporaneous speaking event in the same year. See Subchapter M and Section 1000, Speech Eligibility Rules.
- (c) **RESOURCE.** The contest rules and procedures are discussed in detail in the UIL *Informative and Persuasive Speaking Handbook* and on the UIL website. Coaches are responsible for reviewing these publications in advance of the contest.
- (d) **LENGTH OF SPEECHES.** Persuasive speeches shall not be longer than seven minutes. There shall be no minimum time. The speaker may complete only the sentence in progress without disqualification, after the allotted time has expired. The responsibility of keeping within the seven-minute time limit rests with the contestant.
- (e) **RESTRICTION ON NOTES.** A speaker is allowed to use one notecard, but not required to do so. If used, the notecard shall be no larger than 3x5" when delivering the speech. No limit is placed on the quantity of information on that one card. Use of more than one notecard shall result in disqualification. All source citations orally delivered in the speech should be legitimate.
- (f) **ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN THE PREP ROOM.** The use of laptop and other electronic retrieval devices by competitors in UIL Extemporaneous Speaking is allowed so long as wired or wireless connections are disabled and remain disabled throughout the contest. Cell phones, smartphones and smartwatches are prohibited in the preparation room.
- (g) **QUESTIONS.** Questions shall be made to the contest director before the decision of the judges is rendered. The decisions of the meet officials in these matters are final.
- (B) Oral interpretation focuses on literature in performance through expressive oral reading. The goals of this contest are to encourage the contestant's exploration of a variety of literary selections, and to enhance the performer's and audience's appreciation of literature through the performer's interpretation of the work.
- (2) **Format.** Contestants shall prepare selections from both Categories A and B. The literary categories are designed to encourage students to explore the wide variety of feeling and form available in poetry. In any one contest round, the contestants shall be bound by the one selected category. Contestants who fail to read material from within the selected category shall be disqualified. Oral reading of the selection(s), including the introduction and transitions, shall not exceed seven minutes.
- (b) **ENTRIES.**
 - (1) **Representation.** Each member school in all conferences may enter three students in the contest.
 - (2) **Eligibility.** Only students in high school are eligible for this contest. Poetry contestants shall not compete at district in prose interpretation or in Lincoln-Douglas debate. Refer to Section 1000 for specific speech eligibility requirements.
- (c) **RESOURCES.** The categories are discussed and defined in detail in the *UIL Prose and Poetry Handbook* and on the UIL website. Coaches are responsible for reviewing these publications in advance of the contest.
- (d) **STANDARDS.** In selecting material to be read in the contest, the coach and student are challenged to explore literature of high quality and are encouraged to prepare selections of literary merit that the same student has not performed in a previous year. Students shall not use selections from the same literary work more than one year at UIL State Meet and strongly are discouraged from repeating the same selection at district or regional contests that they performed in a previous year. Selections used by contestants should not offend the moral standards of the community nor be in bad taste. Academic coaches should revise or reject all selections that in any way fail to meet these qualifications, as not all material by an author is appropriate for contest material.
- (e) **INTRODUCTIONS.** An introduction is required in both categories. The introduction and/or transitions during the performance shall include the

Section 1006: POETRY INTERPRETATION

- (a) **THE CONTEST.**
 - (1) **Purpose.** The purpose of this contest is to encourage the student to understand, experience and share poetry through the art of oral interpretation.
 - (A) Oral interpretation, or the study of literature through its performance, can be defined as a demonstration of analysis, performance and communication skills offered publicly on behalf of literature.

name of the writer(s) and the selection(s) to be performed and should prepare the audience to listen to the selection. The introduction should reflect spontaneity, though it should be prepared ahead of time.

- (f) **MANUSCRIPTS OR COPIES.** The contestant should perform the selections reading from manuscripts or copies of the selections that are in a binder. Students shall not read from books or magazines or perform without a manuscript or copy of the selection.
- (g) **TIME LIMIT.** The time limit for each performance including introduction and any transitional material may not exceed seven minutes. There is no grace period. The responsibility for keeping within the restricted time limit rests with the contestant. The penalty for exceeding seven minutes is disqualification from the round by the contest director, with the exception of the final round of State Meet when the contestant shall receive last in the round.

Section 1007: PROSE INTERPRETATION

(a) THE CONTEST.

- (1) **Purpose.** The purpose of this contest is to encourage the student to understand, experience and share prose works through the art of oral interpretation.
 - (A) Oral interpretation, or the study of literature through its performance, can be defined as a combination of analysis, performance and communication skills offered publicly on behalf of literature.
 - (B) Oral interpretation focuses on literature in performance through expressive oral reading. The goals of this contest are to encourage the contestant's exploration of a variety of literary selections and to enhance the performer's and audience's appreciation of literature through the performer's interpretation of the work.
- (2) **Format.** Contestants shall prepare selections from both Categories A and B. The literary categories are designed to encourage students to explore the wide variety of points of view and feeling available in prose. In any one contest round, the contestants shall be bound by the one selected category. Contestants who fail to read material from within the selected category shall be disqualified. Oral reading of the selection(s), including the introduction and transitions, shall not exceed seven minutes.

(b) ENTRIES.

- (1) **Representation.** Each member school in all conferences may enter three students in the contest.
- (2) **Eligibility.** Prose contestants shall not compete at district in poetry interpretation or in Lincoln-Douglas debate. See Speech Plan, Section 1000, for specific speech eligibility rules.

(c) **RESOURCES.** The categories are discussed and defined in detail in the *UIL Prose and Poetry Handbook* and on the UIL website. Coaches are responsible for reviewing these publications in advance of the contest.

(d) **STANDARDS.** In selecting material to be read in the contest, the coach and student are challenged to explore literature of high quality and are encouraged to prepare selections of literary merit that the same student has not performed in a previous year. Students shall not use selections from the same literary work more than one year at UIL State Meet and are strongly discouraged from repeating the same selection at district or regional contests that they performed in a previous year. Selections used by contestants should not offend the moral standards of the community nor be in bad taste. Academic coaches should revise or reject all selections that in any way fail to meet these qualifications, as not all material by an author is appropriate for contest material.

(e) **INTRODUCTIONS.** An introduction is required in both categories. The introduction and/or transitions during the performance shall include the name of the writer(s) and the selection(s) to be performed and should prepare the audience to listen to the selection. The introduction should reflect spontaneity, though it should be prepared ahead of time.

(f) **MANUSCRIPTS OR COPIES.** The contestant should perform the selections reading from manuscripts or copies of the selections that are in a binder. Students shall not read from books or magazines or perform without a manuscript or copy of the selection.

(g) **TIME LIMIT.** The time limit for each performance including introduction and any transitional material may not exceed seven minutes. There is no grace period. The responsibility for keeping within the restricted time limit rests with the contestant. The penalty for exceeding seven minutes is disqualification from the round by the contest director, with the exception of the final round of State Meet when the contestant shall receive last

in the round.

Section 1008: CONGRESS

(a) THE CONTEST.

(1) *Purpose.* The purpose of this contest is to encourage the student to understand real-world social and political policies debated within the framework of a legislative body modeled after the United States Congress, with formal discourse guided by parliamentary procedure.

(2) *Format.* Contestants will formulate legislative bills and resolutions, debate them, and adopt or reject them by casting votes. Speaking in legislative congress is conducted within a structured environment of specific procedural rules.

(b) ENTRIES.

(1) *Representation.* Each school desiring to participate in UIL Congress should file an intent to participate form on the UIL website no later than date posted on UIL Congress webpage for the current school year. Failure to submit intent shall require regional committee approval in order for school to participate. Each school in all conferences may enter five competitors in the congressional region competition. Two alternates may be registered. Entries shall be submitted at least ten calendar days prior to the congressional region competition via the UIL website. In the event ten or less total contestants per conference are competing in a congressional region, both alternates from each school with a full entry in that conference may be seated. Only one alternate may be seated if there are 11-15 entries within the conference.

(2) *Eligibility.* Speech plan, Section 1000 of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules, regarding specific speech eligibility shall not apply to this contest. Entering the congress competition does not impact a student's eligibility to enter any other UIL high school academic event (i.e., CX Debate, LD Debate, Number Sense, Journalism).

(3) *Entries Submitted After the 10-day Deadline,* require majority consent of the regional congress committee.

(c) **RESOURCES.** The contest is discussed and defined in detail in the UIL Congress Handbook and on the UIL website. Coaches are responsible for reviewing these publications in advance of the contest.

(d) **STRUCTURE.** Congress will be organized into

regions according to the twenty Educational Service Centers (ESC) designated by the Texas Education Agency. All schools, regardless of UIL conference, will compete with each other within their school's region ESC unless conference entry numbers warrant separate chambers. Regardless, each conference competing in the congressional region will be eligible to advance a minimum of three representatives to the state congressional competition.

(e) **CONGRESSIONAL REGION CONTEST DIRECTORSHIP.** A directorship of five for each congressional region contest within their Education Service Center region will conduct the region contest. A congressional region clerk appointed by the UIL office will chair the directorship. The congressional region clerk shall be the final authority until the congressional region competition is completed.

(f) **ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN CHAMBER.** The use of laptop and tablet computers and other electronic retrieval devices by competitors in UIL Congress is allowed so long as wired or wireless connections are disabled and remain disabled throughout the contest. Cell phones, smartphones and smartwatches are prohibited in the chamber. Traditional timing devices are permitted.

(g) **CONGRESS SHALL BE PUBLIC.** Congress is public discourse. Therefore, all congressional chambers shall be open to the public. No coaching or cheering shall be permitted during the contest.

(h) **RECORDING.** Schools and/or individuals are prohibited from recording (audio and/or video) region or state congress sessions. The UIL reserves the right to record for educational purposes.

Section 1021: JOURNALISM PROGRAM AND CONTESTS

(a) **PURPOSE.** The purpose of the UIL journalism program is not so much to train students to become professional journalists but rather to stress writing and higher order thinking skills.

(b) **PRACTICAL TRAINING.** Few participants in UIL journalism contests pursue careers in journalism. More are trained toward critical evaluation of media, and this training eventually spawns a continuous pressure upon these institutions to better serve our nation.

(c) **PROGRAM.** The journalism program consists of the voluntary member state scholastic publications association (ILPC) and the UIL's journalism contests. Schools need not join the journalism association in

order to be eligible for UIL contests.

- (d) **INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE PRESS CONFERENCE (ILPC).** For information regarding the ILPC, see Appendix III.

Section 1023: **HIGH SCHOOL JOURNALISM CONTESTS**

- (a) **ENTRIES.** Each member high school may enter as many as three persons in each of the five journalism contests for its conference at the district level. A student may compete in all five contests.
- (b) **ADMINISTRATION AND JUDGING OF JOURNALISM CONTESTS.** The director of the district and regional meets shall appoint a journalism contest director to conduct and supervise the journalism contests. It is the duty of the contest director to administer the contests in strict adherence to the guidelines set forth by the UIL office. Instances of variances from the guidelines should be reported to the UIL Director of Journalism immediately. The contest director shall be responsible for preventing any communication between contestants or any reference on the part of contestants to notes, books or printed material other than a printed or electronic thesaurus, dictionary and Associated Press Stylebook. The contest director or designee shall be timekeeper for the contest and should give periodic warnings of the time limit, even if the contest is held in a room where a clock is clearly visible to the contestants. When the contest time elapses, the contest director or designee shall collect all papers.
- (1) **Contest Roster.** The contest director should assign a contest number to each contestant.
 - (2) **Identification.** The assigned numbers will be the only identification on the contest papers. Judges shall not have access to the master list of number assignments on the Contest Roster until all judging has been completed. Failure to write the identification number on an entry may result in disqualification. The penalty for writing a student's name or name of school on entry is disqualification.
 - (3) **Judges.** Judges for each journalism contest shall be secured by the journalism contest director before the contest is administered, subject to approval by the meet director. It is recommended that the judging panel have three members and that at least one member be a current or former journalism teacher. At the regional and state level, at least one member of the judging panel shall be a former or current high school journalism teacher. A host site can request a waiver through the

UIL office if it is unable to secure a current or former high school journalism teacher for the judging panel. The panel may be asked to judge more than one of the journalism contests. Journalism coaches accompanying their contestants to regional meets may serve on judging committees, provided no coach is assigned to judge entries from the same event in which his or her contestant is competing. It is best to select judges who have no vested interest in the contest and whose integrity is above reproach. It is appropriate and recommended to pay judges a stipend for each contest judged.

- (4) **Judging Criteria.** Judges should have on hand a list of contest judging criteria, which will be provided to the meet director with the contest packets.
- (5) **Ranking the Papers.** Judges shall read and critique all papers and rank the top six places. There can be no ties in these contests.
- (6) **Contest Materials.** Contestants may use an electronic or printed thesaurus, dictionary and Associated Press Stylebook during the News, Feature and Editorial contests. Contestants may use a printed thesaurus, dictionary and Associated Press Stylebook in the Headline and Copy Editing contests. No other materials shall be used.
- (7) **Use of Computers.** Contestants may choose to use their own laptop computers in the News, Feature and Editorial contests. No electronic device shall be permitted during the Headline or Copy Editing contests. If contestants choose to use their own computers, they shall bring a portable printer, associated hardware, software and paper. Spell check, thesaurus and Associated Press Stylebook functions may be used if available on the computers. Students who opt to compose their entries on computers accept the risk of computer malfunction. In case of computer malfunction, the contestant may use the remaining allotted time to complete the composition in handwriting or compose on another computer (if available). When printing the contest on an electronic printer, the print command shall be started by the time contest time expires. Once time has expired, participants and coaches shall not disconnect or connect computer equipment or enter new commands in an effort to print the entry. District or regional host sites

may provide computers for contestants but are not expected to make those provisions. Computers will not be provided at state, but contestants may use their own laptops and portable printers.

- (c) STATE MEET. The first place entries in conference A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A and 6A will be subjected to a second judging. The contestant with the top entry will receive a championship plaque, commonly referred to as "Tops in Texas."

Section 1024: FEATURE WRITING CONTEST

- (a) THE CONTEST.
- (1) *Purpose.* Feature writing teaches student to read critically, to digest and prioritize information quickly, and to write clearly, accurately and succinctly. Emphasis is placed on the same writing skills as other UIL Journalism Contests, as well as the ability to write descriptively.
 - (2) *Format.* The contest consists of a fact sheet from which participants develop an article.

Section 1025: NEWS WRITING CONTEST

- (a) THE CONTEST.
- (1) *Purpose.* News writing teaches students to read critically, to digest and prioritize information quickly and to write clearly, accurately and succinctly. Emphasis is placed on mechanical and stylistic precision, lead writing, use of direct and indirect quotes and news judgment.
 - (2) *Format.* The contest consists of a fact sheet from which participants develop an article.

Section 1026: EDITORIAL WRITING CONTEST

- (a) THE CONTEST.
- (1) *Purpose.* Editorial writing teaches students to read critically, to digest and prioritize information quickly and to write clearly, accurately and succinctly. Emphasis is placed on mechanical and stylistic precision, the ability to think deeply and argue or defend a point of view persuasively.
 - (2) *Format.* The contest consists of a fact sheet from which participants develop an editorial.

Section 1027: HEADLINE WRITING CONTEST

- (a) THE CONTEST.
- (1) *Purpose.* Headline writing teaches students to read critically, to digest and prioritize information quickly and to write clearly, accurately and succinctly. Emphasis is placed on the ability to

discern key facts and to write with flair and style in order to tell and sell a story.

- (2) *Format.* The contest consists of a fact sheet from which participants will read six short articles and write prescribed headlines for each.

Section 1028: COPY EDITING CONTEST

- (a) THE CONTEST.
- (1) *Purpose.* Copy editing teaches student the vital skills of proofreading and editing to create accurate, clear and succinct writing. Emphasis is placed on the ability to find and correct grammatical, spelling, punctuation, AP style and factual errors.
 - (2) *Format.* The contest consists of objective questions, proofreading sentences and editing a news brief.

Section 1033: ONE-ACT PLAY CONTEST

- (a) THE CONTEST.
- (1) *Purpose.* The purposes of the One-Act Play contest are to foster appreciation of good theatre, satisfy the competitive, artistic spirit with friendly rivalry among schools, learn to lose or win graciously, promote interest in theatre during adult life and increase the number of schools which have adopted theatre arts as an academic subject in school curricula.
 - (2) *Contest Format.* Each school performs a short play. The plays are adjudicated and advancing schools are announced and individual awards given. Schools receive an evaluation form and an oral critique.
- (b) ENTRIES.
- (1) *Representation.* Each member high school of the UIL is entitled to enter a play company in the district contest of its appropriate conference.
 - (2) *Participation.* Participation shall be defined as a performance of an approved script with a running time of not less than eighteen minutes. A school that fails to participate in the One-Act Play contest after enrolling shall be subject to the full range of penalties, including suspension from the One-Act Play Contest for the following year.
 - (3) *Faculty Director.*
 - (A) Directors in the high school One-Act Play Contest shall be full-time employees of the school districts the plays represent. Full-time means that the person is under contract to the school board for the whole scholastic or cal-

- endar year and the person has enough contractual duties to be considered a full-time employee by the Teacher Retirement System and state law.
- (B) Exceptions. A retired teacher or administrator who has 20 or more years of experience may be hired and paid for directing the one-act play. Student teachers, while they are assigned to a member school district to fulfill their student teaching requirements, may volunteer, pro bono, to assist in directing their contest play and may serve as one of the directors allowed. A full-time substitute who has directed one-act play during the school year may be permitted to continue through the state One-Act Play Contest.
- (C) Aid in Directing. Directors shall not accept nor solicit aid in the preparation of the play, or in coaching the actors, or in designing props, makeup, costumes, scenery, lighting or in directing the contest play. Violations of this rule may result in the play being deemed ineligible for competition.
- (c) CONTEST ADMINISTRATION AND PROCEDURES.
- (1) *Contest Manager*. The one-act play contest manager, appointed by the district director, should not be the director of a play entered in the same contest.
- (A) Responsibilities. It is the responsibility of the one-act play contest manager to organize and conduct the contest in accordance with UIL rules and the “guide for contest managers,” in the current *Handbook for One-Act Play*.
- (B) Violations. The contest manager is required to declare ineligible a play that violates any of the following: uses an ineligible student, exceeds the number allowed in the performing company, uses additional unit set, or violates Sections 1033 (c)(4), (c)(6) or (c)(7). Violations of any other rules shall be reported to the appropriate executive committee.
- (2) *Enrollment*. Schools shall enroll, register their title and enter contestants by following the procedures found in the current *Handbook for One-Act Play*. The deadlines can be found in the current official calendar.
- (3) *Play Selection*. All plays on the approved lists of long or short plays may be used in UIL contests.
- (A) Plays Not on the Approved List and Scenic Additions. All requests for permission to produce plays not on the approved lists, together with any requests to use scenic elements not permissible under contest rules, shall follow the procedures outlined in the current *Handbook for One-Act Play*.
- (B) Standards. Directors shall eliminate or reject profane references to a deity and obscene language, actions or scenes from the approved production. The administration of the producing school shall assure that the director complies with these requirements and that the play does not offend the moral standards of the community. When a script and the staged production are examined and approved by the administration of the producing school, the production is eligible for presentation at any contest site. The Standards Compliance Form serves to certify that the play and production have been carefully examined and approved for presentation. The UIL’s Play Appraisal Committee may eliminate language, actions or scenes as a condition for approval of plays not on the approved lists.
- (4) *Time Limits*. No play shall exceed 40 minutes performance time. No play shall use more than seven minutes to set and seven minutes to strike. No more than 60 seconds shall elapse between the set time and the beginning of performance.
- (5) *Scenery*. Scenic items may be used as specified in the current *Handbook for One-Act Play*.
- (6) *Firearms or Explosives*. No starter pistol, real gun, rifle, pellet gun, air gun or pistol shall be used in any way, regardless of whether or not the firing pin is removed. Toy, wooden or model firearms may be used. Discharge of a firearm, cap pistol, starter pistol or any type of explosive or the use of combustible materials in connection with a contest play shall not be permitted.
- (7) *The Director During the Contest Performance*. Directors shall not be permitted in the light booth, backstage or offstage areas during the contest performance of their play, but directors are permitted in these areas during the

set and strike periods. Directors shall not make contact or communicate with crew and cast members working in said areas during performance.

- (8) **Awards.** Three unranked advancing plays and an alternate shall be selected at zone, district, bi-district and area levels. Two unranked advancing plays and an alternate shall be selected at the regional level.
- (A) Plays at state shall be ranked through sixth place. A+ contests shall be ranked through third place.
- (B) Individual awards shall include the two best performers, all-star cast and honorable mention all-star cast. An honorable mention all-star cast, not to exceed the size of the all-star cast, may be selected at the discretion of the judge or judges.
- (C) Medals and points given to individual students for competition in the One-Act Play Contest stay with the students even if the school is disqualified. However, if the disqualification of the school is the result of an ineligible student, the student shall return awards and points for that student is deducted.
- (9) **Judges.**
- (A) Selection of Judges. Only judges selected from the current UIL's list of accredited critic judges, unless the UIL approves an exception for valid reasons, shall adjudicate all One-Act Play Contests.
- (B) Judges and critiques. Judging shall be by an odd number of judges or by a single critic judge. A critique of each play shall be presented orally to all entries and interested audience members before or after the contest manager has announced results of the contest. At the area, regional and state levels, critiques will be presented as determined by the UIL state theatre director.
- (C) Responsibility For Selection Of Judges. Judges for zone, district and bi-district contests shall be selected by the District Executive Committee(s). Judges for the area, regional and state contest shall be selected and assigned by the State Theatre Director. A judge should not be selected that would result in any entry being evaluated by the same judge twice in the same year.
- (D) Decision Of The Critic Judge Or Judges.

The decision of the critic judge or judges is final.

Section 1034: ONE-ACT PLAY CONTEST ETHICS CODE

One mission of the UIL One-Act Play Contest is to promote a spirit of cooperation among all involved directors, students, administrators, parents and audience members to promote growth in the realm of educational theatre. The One-Act Play Contest Ethics Code shall carry the force of rule. Member school districts, member schools and/or covered school district personnel who violate any of the provisions of this code shall be subject to penalty.

- (a) ONE-ACT PLAY CONTEST CODE. Section 901, the Academic Meet Code requires participants to:
- (1) Participate in the OAP contest with the spirit of fairness and sportsmanship, observing all rules both in letter and intent.
 - (2) Direct and sponsor companies and individuals without resorting to tactics which attempt to skirt the rules or distract from sound educational principles.
 - (3) Accept decisions of the adjudicator(s) and contest manager(s) graciously without questioning their honesty or integrity unless concrete evidence of impropriety can be brought forward. Extend courtesy to contest officials and site crews from the company members, school officials and audience. Conduct that berates, intimidates or threatens competitors, based on gender or ethnic origin, has no place in interscholastic activities.
 - (4) Receive the adjudicator's point of view with an open mind. Negative reaction during the critique shall be deemed inappropriate.
 - (5) Provide information or evidence regarding eligibility of any contestant or school to the local school administration, then to the proper District Executive Committee. To withhold information is considered dishonorable and contrary to good sportsmanship. Schools guilty of violating this section are subject to penalty.
- (b) CODE FOR ONE-ACT PLAY CONTEST DIRECTORS AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS. The Code for one-act play directors and school officials includes the principles described above and the purposes listed in Section 1033 (a-c) and the "Guide For One-Act Play Contest Directors" in the *Handbook for One-Act Play*. The Code requires:
- (1) Awareness, understanding and observance of all rules governing the competition for which the director is responsible.
 - (2) Treatment of company members based on

- sound educational precepts and the general welfare and health of the student.
- (3) Professional courtesy to other directors, contest manager(s), adjudicator(s) and participants.
 - (A) Directors shall communicate the aims and rules of the One-Act Play Contest to all company members in the early stages of the rehearsal process.
 - (B) Directors shall model professional behavior during the planning, the production rehearsal and throughout the duration of the contest.
 - (C) Directors shall be responsible for making company members, school officials, parents and patrons aware of the objective criteria described in the *Handbook for One-Act Play* and the subjectivity involved in the process of adjudication; i.e. evaluating, selecting and critiquing any work of art, including a one-act play.
 - (D) Directors and company members shall model professional decorum during all phases of the contest. For example, directors and company members, as representatives of their schools and communities, shall refrain from disruptive behavior, slanderous or overt actions of disrespect, or any other displays of negative behavior.
 - (4) Adherence to the One-Act Play Contest calendar and pre-contest planning procedures.
 - (5) Avoidance of any practice that would endanger the welfare or safety of any company member, including actual contact strikes to the performer. Only choreographed stage combat, creating the illusion of physical contact shall be used in the contest.
 - (6) Emphasis on the academic progress of all participants through a check of their academic standing.
 - (7) Protests and reports of violations forwarded to the appropriate District Executive Committee at the zone and district levels and the State Executive Committee at the area, regional and state levels.
- (c) **PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.** Directors are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity for professional growth through affiliations with professional associations and publications.
- (a) **THE CONTEST.**
- (1) **Purpose.** The purposes of the Theatrical Design Contest are to foster appreciation of good theatrical design, to increase the number of schools which have adapted technical theatre as an academic subject in school curricula, to learn to lose or win graciously, accepting with good sportsmanship the decision and critique with a view to improve future projects and to satisfy the competitive, artistic spirit with friendly rivalry among schools.
 - (2) **Contest Format.** Each school submits designs to the UIL office as directed in the current *Theatrical Design Guide*. The designs are adjudicated and rated and advancing schools are announced. Schools receive a critique. Qualifiers at state are ranked first through sixth.
- (b) **ENTRIES**
- (1) **Representation.** Each member school shall be allowed to enter two individual entries in each of the design areas and one group entry as defined in the current *Theatrical Design Guide*.
 - (2) **Deadlines.** Entry deadlines can be found in the current Official Calendar and the current *Theatrical Design Guide*. See the UIL website for official changes.
 - (3) **Faculty Sponsors.**
 - (A) Sponsors in the Theatrical Design Contest shall be full-time employees of the school districts of the schools that the entries represent.
 - (B) Full-time means that the person is under contract to the school board of the school that the designs represent for the whole scholastic or calendar year and the person has enough contractual duties to be considered a full-time employee by the Teacher Retirement System and state law.
 - (C) A retired teacher/administrator who has 20 or more years of experience may be hired and paid for sponsoring the Theatrical Design Contest. Student teachers, during the semester they are assigned to a member school to fulfill their student teaching requirements, may volunteer to assist for that school. Schools shall not pay student teachers for assisting.
 - (D) Sponsors may only provide guidance to the group or individuals. They shall not produce any of the materials contained in the submission.

- (E) Sponsors shall not accept nor solicit aid in the preparation of the entries or in coaching the students. This provision is not intended to prevent sponsors from taking their students to the several theatre conferences and workshops conducted by the UIL and by numerous high schools, colleges and universities.
- (c) CONTEST ADMINISTRATION AND PROCEDURES.
- (1) *Selection of Title.* The title used for the Theatrical Design Contest shall be the same as that used by the UIL Literary Criticism Contest, unless it is deemed inappropriate for the aims and purpose of this contest and another title, genre or playwright shall be announced. All designs submitted shall be for that title, genre or playwright.
 - (2) *Prompt.* A “directorial prompt” shall be provided each year. In it, students will be given certain conceptual parameters from which they will develop a design concept. The prompt can be found on the UIL website and in the current *Theatrical Design Guide*.
 - (3) *Submission. Packaging and Labeling.* Schools shall submit all items required for groups and individuals by following the requirements as published in the current *Theatrical Design Guide*.
 - (4) *Evaluation.* Each entry shall be submitted to the UIL and evaluated by qualified theatre and marketing professionals. Each entry shall be evaluated and awarded an Award of Merit, Award of Honor, Award of Achievement or Award of Distinguished Merit.
 - (5) *Advancement.* Those entries designated as Exemplary shall advance to the state contest. State entries will be ranked through sixth place. A plaque and individual medals shall be presented to the top six groups. Medals shall be presented to the first through sixth place individual winners.

Section 1036: FILM

(a) THE CONTEST.

- (1) *Purpose.* The purpose of the Young Filmmakers Festival is to provide students with the opportunity to explore the art of cinematic storytelling.
- (2) *Contest Format.* The films shall focus on storytelling using the techniques and tools found in the cinematic arts.

(b) ENTRIES.

- (1) *Representation.* Each member school shall be allowed to submit three entries in each category as defined in the current *Young Filmmakers Guide*.
 - (2) *Deadlines.* Entry deadlines can be found in the current Official Calendar and the current Young Filmmakers Guide. See the UIL website for official changes.
 - (3) *Faculty Sponsors*
 - (A) Sponsors in the UIL Young Filmmakers Festival shall be full-time employees of the school districts the entries represent.
 - (B) Adult involvement in the project is limited to on-screen talent and/or behind the scenes in a faculty advisor capacity.
- (c) CONTEST ADMINISTRATION AND PROCEDURES.
- (1) *Eligible Material.* Only those films produced during the current school year or spring and summer months immediately preceding the competition will be considered for submission into the festival.
 - (A) Submitted films must be original works and are required to have clearances for music or other copyrighted material used in the project. Films containing copyrighted material used without permission will not be eligible for screening.
 - (B) The administration of the producing school shall assure that the production does not offend the moral standards of the community. When the final edited product is examined and approved by the administration of the producing school, the production is eligible for presentation at any contest site. A “community standards and copyright compliance form” included in the entry form serves to certify that the production has been carefully examined and approved for presentation.
 - (2) *Entry Procedures.* The entry procedures, deadlines and categories shall be posted on the UIL website.
 - (3) *Evaluation.* Films submitted to the festival shall be previewed and scored by adjudicators. The top entries in each category will be screened and awarded at the state festival.