



2020 - 2021 UIL Prose & Poetry Contests

Preview

Overview of the Contests
Rules and Procedures
Review of Categories
Documentation Requirements
Practice & Preparation



Oral Interpretation
*focuses on literature in
performance through
expressive oral reading.*



Rules & Procedures



Where do I find the Rules?

Constitution

UIL Prose & Poetry Handbook

UIL Oral Interpretation webpage

Comply with the Academic Conflict Pattern

Comply with Speech Event Restrictions

- **If you enter Prose, you may not enter Poetry or LD Debate.**
- **If you enter Poetry, you may not enter Prose or LD Debate.**

*Pay attention to the word “shall” when reading the rules.
“Shall” means mandatory.

General Rules of Prose and Poetry

Prepare 2 oral reading performances

Category A and Category B

Time Limit: 7 minutes maximum

Introduction: required

Manuscript: required

No costumes

No props

Prose

includes short stories, novels, and writings that have a natural flow of conversational speech. Typically, comprised of full grammatical sentences using everyday language. It is the opposite of poetry.

Poetry

includes verse, novels-in-verse that employ a rhythm that does not mimic ordinary speech. Sometimes rhymes. Meant to evoke an awareness of experience or a specific emotional response through language chosen and arranged for its meaning, sound, and rhythm. It is the opposite of prose.

Category A Prose
THIS IS ME



GOAL of CATEGORY A PROSE:

To examine performer's ancestry, origin, heritage and/or dreams and aspirations

Read a single literary work of prose, an excerpt of a prose, or create a program with **no more than 4 literary works**

Majority of the performance must be **published prose**

May be **fiction or non-fiction**

Examples may include, *but are not limited to:*

Oral Histories, Testimonies, Interviews, and Letters

Co-authored and **anonymous works** are **permissible**

CATEGORY A PROSE:

Introduction and/or transitions shall include ALL titles and authors read and **should connect the literature to the goal of the category.**

If woven, it **shall** be stated in the introduction

If woven, the different literary works should be distinguishable through interpretation

PROSE A RESTRICTIONS:



***ONE to FOUR** SELECTIONS

*IF SINGLE SELECTION...MUST BE PUBLISHED – even INTERNET MATERIAL must be PUBLISHED CONCURRENTLY

*IF MULTIPLE SELECTIONS – ONE selection may be UNPUBLISHED

***NO plays, movies, monologues, speeches**

*Shall be read in English translation – incidental use of foreign language

*No contestant shall use the same writer in more than one category

*No contestant shall use selections from the same literary work more than one year at UIL State Meet

Documentation Requirements for Category A Prose:

Contestants **shall** prepare and **provide** hard copies of the UIL Prose A Documentation online form for the **contest director and each judge**

Contestants shall provide proof of publication for selection(s) used. (1 selection may be unpublished if multiple selections are used)

EXAMPLES OF ACCEPTABLE PROOF OF PUBLICATION for PROSE A:

***Original** published source

***Photocopy of the copyright** of the original source

***Online printout of Library of Congress** cataloguing info

*If from a literary collection – either original source or a photocopy of the **table of contents** that designates the title of the book **and** proof the selection is included...such as a photocopy of the **first page** of selection

*Printout from an acceptable online source proving selection is included in the published collection – shall include the downloaded URL of the website

Category B Prose
THIS SPEAKS TO ME



GOAL of CATEGORY B PROSE: To select literature that speaks to the performer...READER'S CHOICE

May read a single work of prose, an excerpt or may create a program of **no more than FOUR** literary works

May be **fiction or non-fiction, news sources, speeches, essays, letters and diaries**

Co-authored works are **permissible**

CATEGORY B PROSE:

Introduction and/or transitions **shall** include ALL titles and authors read and **should state why the literature was chosen.**

If woven, it **shall** be stated in the introduction

If woven, the different literary works should be distinguishable through interpretation

PROSE B RESTRICTIONS:



***ONE to FOUR** SELECTIONS

*Material may be published, internet or transcribed

***Anonymous** works shall **NOT** be used

***No plays, movies, monologues**

*Shall be read in English translation – incidental use of foreign language

*No contestant shall use the same writer in more than one category

*No contestant shall use selections from the same literary work more than one year at UIL State Meet

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS for Category B Prose:

Contestants **shall** prepare and provide hard copies of the UIL Prose B Documentation online form for the **contest director and each judge**

No proof of publication for Category B is required

Category A Poetry
THIS IS ME



GOAL of CATEGORY A POETRY:

To examine performer's ancestry, origin, heritage and/or dreams and aspirations

Read one single poem, excerpt of a poem or poems or create a program with **no more than 6 poems**.

Majority performance must be **published poetry**.

Song lyrics may be used **only as transitions**

If sung...should be limited

Co-authored and anonymous works are **permissible**

CATEGORY A POETRY:

Introduction and/or transitions **shall** include ALL titles and poets read and **should connect the literature to the goal of the category.**

If song lyrics are used as transitions, it **shall** be stated in the introduction.

If **woven**, it **shall** be stated in the introduction

If woven, the different literary works should be distinguishable through interpretation

Poetry A RESTRICTIONS:



***ONE to SIX** SELECTIONS

*IF SINGLE SELECTION...MUST BE PUBLISHED – even INTERNET MATERIAL must be PUBLISHED CONCURRENTLY

*IF MULTIPLE SELECTIONS – ONE selection may be UNPUBLISHED

***NO plays, movies, monologues, screenplays**

*Shall be read in English translation – incidental use of foreign language

*No contestant shall use the same poet in more than one category

*No contestant shall use selections from the same literary work more than one year at UIL State Meet

Documentation Requirements for Category A Poetry:

Contestants **shall** prepare and **provide** hard copies of the UIL Poetry A Documentation online form for the **contest director and each judge**

Contestants shall provide proof of publication for selection(s) used. (1 may be unpublished if multiple selections are used)

EXAMPLES OF ACCEPTABLE PROOF OF PUBLICATION for POETRY A:

***Original** published source

***Photocopy of the copyright** of the original source

***Online printout of Library of Congress** cataloguing info

*If from a literary collection – either original source or a photocopy of the **table of contents** that designates the title of the book **and** proof the poem is included...such as a photocopy of the **first page** of poem

*Printout from an acceptable online source proving poem is included in the published collection – shall include the downloaded URL of the website

Category B Poetry
THIS SPEAKS TO ME



GOAL of CATEGORY B POETRY: To select poetry that speaks to the performer...READER'S CHOICE

May read a single poem, an excerpt or may create a program of **no more than SIX poems**.

May be **traditional** and **contemporary** poetry and **novels-in-verse**

Co-authored works are **permissible**

CATEGORY B of POETRY:

Introduction and/or transitions **shall** include ALL poems and poets read and **should state why the poetry was chosen.**

If **woven**, it **shall** be stated in the introduction

If woven, the different literary works should be distinguishable through interpretation

Poetry B RESTRICTIONS:



***ONE to SIX** SELECTIONS

*Material may be published, internet or transcribed

***Song lyrics** published only as music shall **NOT** be used

***Anonymous works** shall **NOT** be used

*Shall be read in English translation – incidental use of foreign language

*No contestant shall use the same poet in more than one category

*No contestant shall use selections from the same literary work more than one year at UIL State Meet

Documentation Requirements for Category B Poetry

*Contestants **shall** prepare and provide hard copies of the UIL Poetry B Documentation online form for the **contest director and each judge**

*No proof of publication for Category B is required

New Addition to All the Categories

When using copyrighted material, each member school is responsible for obtaining permission from the publisher for their participant to use the material. UIL assumes no responsibility for copyright permission to perform material.

Preparation:

1. Select your literature.
2. Study to understand the text. Read about the author/poet.
3. Write your introduction and/or transitions. Practice delivery.
Work to sound spontaneous – prepared but not robotic or not overly dramatic.
Be yourself. Let the judge and audience meet you.
4. Cut your literature to stay within the time limit.
5. Prepare your manuscript. Mark (score) it.
6. Make performance decisions.
7. Study the judging rubric.

Rehearse:

1. Let the focus be on your VOICE.

Do not draw attention to movement or gestures.
Gestures should be motivated by the literature.

2. Accentuate FACIAL and EYE EXPRESSION

Eye focus placement is important to delineate characters.

3. VOCAL VARIETY is key.

Achieve this through changes in
VOLUME,
TONE,
PITCH,
PACING.

4. Polish your book work.

Handle your binder with a natural ease.
Practice opening and closing it.
Turn pages at appropriate times.

Performance:

1. Dress Professionally.

Your choice of attire demonstrates your attitude about your performance.

Be conservative in your approach.

Dressing with pride builds confidence.

2. Behave Professionally.

Practice Warm-ups before your round.

Be early to your round.

Stay for the entire round.

Be a good listener to other performers.

3. Respond Professionally.

Don't criticize judges.

Don't overact if you win (or if you lose)

Display sportsmanship and ethics.



**Always Remember: Competition is a Journey,
not a Destination**

Where Can I find help?

Documentation: “Helpful Checklist” provided in the UIL Prose & Poetry Handbook

Documentation Forms: UIL Oral Interpretation webpage

Understanding Categories and Performance Preparation: UIL Prose & Poetry Handbook



Questions?

Contact UIL State Director
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