UIL Prose Competition 2017-2018

PURPOSE OF THE CONTEST: The purpose of this contest is to encourage the student to understand, experience and share prose works through the art of oral interpretation.

1. *Oral Interpretation*. 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.
2. *Goals* *of* *Oral* *Interpretation*. 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.
3. *Questions*. The oral interpreter should work from these questions:

(A) What elements of the work are important to performance?

(B) What physical, vocal, intellectual and emotional resources can the performer bring to the work?

(C) How can this work best be communicated to the audience?

(D) What kind of introduction will be most effective?

*TIME LIMIT:* The time limit for each performance including introduction and anytransitional material may not exceed seven minutes

*INTRODUCTIONS:* An introduction is required in both categories. The introduction and/or commentary during the performance shall include the name of the writer and the selection to be performed and should prepare the audience to listen to the selection. The introduction should be memorized.

*RESOURCES:* The UIL website is loaded with information and videos that will help you select, cut, and present your pieces. Visit <http://www.uiltexas.org/speech/oral-interp>.

## Prose Category A Restrictions

**Material chosen for use in Category A of Prose Interpretation shall meet the following restrictions: (A) All selections shall be published, printed material; Internet materials shall be published concurrently in hard copy; (B) Selections from plays, screenplays, movies and documentaries shall not be used in this category; (C) Speeches shall not be used in this category; (D) No contestant shall use an individual writer in more than one category in the contest; (E) No contestant shall use selections from the same literary work more than one year at UIL State Meet; and (F) Selections shall be read in the English translation; however, incidental use of foreign language words and phrases in any selection may be used as in the original.**

## **Category A: Examining Our Changing World**

The goal of this category is for the performer to examine his or her changing world in order to inform the audience about a societal change and its impact on the performer. Societal change refers to a significant alteration over time in behavior, cultural values and norms. In this category, the contestant shall perform a single literary work of prose or excerpt of a work designed to increase the audience’s knowledge of a contemporary societal change occurring in the performer’s world such as, but not limited to: education, family, personal relationships, career choices, minority struggles, or community issues. The purpose of the performance should be to inform, not persuade.

The prose shall be a single literary work, fiction or non-fiction, written by one author. The literature shall be published in hard copy. Works co-authored or by anonymous authors are not permissible. The author and theme/subject matter used in this category shall not be used in Category B.

The introduction shall include the title and author read and should be used to identify and inform the audience of the societal change and its impact on the performer, without taking a stand.

### **Documentation Requirements**

In order to meet category restrictions, the contestant shall provide proof the selection is published in hard copy. Examples of acceptable proof include the original published source or a photocopy or online printout of Library of Congress cataloging information. If the selection is drawn from a literary collection, the contestant shall supply the original source or a photocopy of the table of contents that designates the title of the book and proof the selection is included in that book, such as a photocopy of the first page of the selection. A printout from an online source proving the selection is included in the published collection is acceptable. Social media (such as Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr) are not acceptable forms of formal documentation). Printouts of online documentation shall include the URL of the website downloaded in the header or footer. See the UIL Prose and Poetry Handbook and the Official UIL website for detailed information about acceptable and unacceptable documentation.

In addition, the contestant shall prepare and provide for the contest director and each judge a hard copy of the UIL Prose A Documentation online form that lists the theme of the performance, as well as titles and authors included in the performance, for the purpose of insuring that no theme/subject matter or author is being used in both categories.

### **Bibliographic Information**

Students are urged to take to the contest site the original published source of the selection.

## Prose Category B Restrictions

**Material chosen for use in Category B of Prose Interpretation shall meet the following restrictions: (A) All selections may be published, printed material, online material or transcribed material; (B) Speeches, plays, screenplays, movies, documentaries, radio shows may be used in this category; (C) No contestant may use the same theme/subject matter nor the same writer in more than one category in the contest; (E) No contestant shall use selections from the same literary work more than one year at UIL State Meet; and (F) Selections shall be read in the English translation; however, incidental use of foreign language words and phrases in any selection may be used as in the original.**

## **Category B: Taking A Stand**

The goal of this category is to develop a literary program that supports a position using different types of literature to make a persuasive argument. The contestant shall read a minimum of two different types of literary sources by different authors but no more than four sources; however, the majority of the program must be prose in nature. For this category only, prose types include fiction, nonfiction, news sources, speeches and essays. In addition, for one of the sources, contestants may use a script from a movie,
documentary, television show/movie, radio show, play or monologue (see limitations below). Anonymous authors are allowed. The purpose of the performance should be to persuade, not only to inform.

Contestants shall not use poetry, song lyrics, musicals, jokes, commercials, blogs, plays written in verse or novels in verse. The selections may be woven. The intent of this category is not to encourage originally authored material but to give the contestant the freedom of expanding prose to include different types of literature in a performance program. However, original verbal transitions may be used within the program.

In the introduction, the performer shall take a stand on an issue with the intent of persuading the audience. The introduction and/or transitions shall state the types' of literature used and include all titles and authors. If the program is woven, the contestant shall state it in the introduction and the different selections should be distinguishable through interpretation. The authors and theme/subject matter used in this category shall not be used in Category A of prose.

### **Documentation Requirements**

All selections may be published, printed material, online material or transcribed material. The contestant shall prepare and provide for the contest director and each judge a hard copy of the UIL Prose B Documentation online form that lists the theme of the performance, as well as titles and authors included in the performance, for the purpose of insuring that no theme/subject matter or author is being used in both categories. No proof of publication for Category B is required.