

NEISD

Speech Rules & Guidelines

Prose Reading

At UIL tournaments, material chosen for use in either category of Prose Interpretation shall meet the following restrictions - all selections shall be published, printed material; selections from plays or screen plays shall not be used in either category; The contestant shall prepare a selection from both categories A and B. Category A: Celebrate Non-Fiction: First-Person Narratives. The contestant shall perform a selection from a published work of non-fiction written in prose from the first-person point of view. The goal of this category is to encourage students to explore narratives of human experience as reported by the author. Material for this category should be drawn from one of the following published forms: memoirs, autobiographies, letters, diaries, journals, or essays. In this type of literary work, the author tells a story as he or she experienced it. The point of view will be personal, making use of the pronouns "I," "me," "my," "mine" and "we." The selection shall not be drawn from published or unpublished speeches, "one-person" theatre, or theatrical monologues. Works by collaborative authors or an anonymous author are not permissible. Category B: Celebrate Fiction. The contestant shall perform a selection from a published work of fiction written in prose. The selection should be drawn from a novel, novella, novelette or short story. The goal of this category is to encourage contestants to explore the imagination of authors from any country throughout the world. The author of this category shall not be used in the other prose category. Works by an anonymous author are not permissible. In selecting material to be read in the contest, the coach and student are challenged to explore literature of high quality. 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. An introduction is required in both categories. The introduction and/or commentary during the performance should 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 reflect spontaneity, though it should be prepared ahead of time. Responsive use of the body (i.e., spontaneous changes in posture, gesture, and place-to-place movement) is permissible. However, this active use of the body should be appropriate to the demands of the selection, a natural outgrowth from the literature to be performed, and be limited in scope. The UIL time limit for each performance including introduction and any transitional material may not exceed seven minutes. There is no grace period allowed.

At TFA tournaments, there are no categories for prose reading, and the time limit is seven minutes, but there is a thirty second grace period.

At NFL tournaments, there are no categories for prose reading, but the time limit is five minutes with no grace period.