



To: Prose and Poetry Contest Directors
From: Jana Riggins, State Director
RE: Administering the Prose and Poetry Contests

UIL Prose and Poetry contests have two designated performance categories per contest. Please read the contest rules in the *Constitution & Contest Rules*, Chapter 4 of the *UIL Prose and Poetry Handbook*, and the latest rulings posted on the official UIL website, carefully reviewing the category descriptions in advance of the round. Please check your judge tabulation for final rankings by using the newest version of the UIL TalkTab software 3.1, available for downloading free from the speech page of the UIL website.

Give copies of the category descriptions to your judges in advance of the meet. Then, on the day of the contest, conduct a briefing session prior to starting the rounds to make sure judges understand what each category is requiring of the contestants.

To check documentation, review the following:

Prose: Category A: “Exploring the Southern Experience”

See the C&CR for a full description of the category.

Category A allows students to read prose selections written by a single author. **The selection may be fiction or non-fiction. Author must be born in one of the following states:**

Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Kentucky, Mississippi,
North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia or West Virginia.

As Contest Director, prior to starting rounds, you should check for the following:

- 1) Proof that the selection is published, printed material
- 2) Proof that the selection is written by an author born in one of the 12 designated states
- 3) Proof that the author used for Category A is different from the one the student is using for Category B

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

*A selection is NOT considered published, printed material if only posted on the Internet. Contestants can prove their selection is published in hard copy in one of the following ways:

- Show you the original book
- Provide a copy of the Library of Congress cataloguing information from the original source or from the Library of Congress Online catalog (<http://www.catalog.loc.gov/>)
- Show official communication from the publisher or author indicating the printed publication in which the selection can be found

PROOF OF AUTHOR’S BIRTHPLACE

This may be done in one of the following ways:

- Encyclopedia or reference book entry
- Other published biographical information
- Newspaper/Magazine article
- formal correspondence from author
- formal correspondence from publisher
- book jacket

Acceptable Documentation for Birthplace:

√ **“born in”, “native of”, “originally from”**

Unacceptable Documentation for Birthplace:

- X Author **“writes about”** the South
- X is **“included in”** an anthology of southern writers
- X Author is **“from”** the South
- X Author **“resides,” “grew up,” “spent most of his/her childhood,” “graduated from a school or college”** in the South

Prose: Category B: “Exploring Prose Fiction”

See the C&CR for a full description of the category.

Category B requires the contestant to perform a selection from a printed, published piece of prose fiction. It may be written by a single author or be a collaborative work. Anonymous authors are allowed in this prose category only.

As Contest Director, prior to starting rounds, you should check for the following:

- 1) Proof that the selection is published, printed material
- 2) Proof that the selection is classified as **fiction**
- 3) Proof that the author used for Category B is different from the one the student is using for Category A

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

*A selection is NOT considered published, printed material if only posted on the Internet. Contestants can prove their selection is published in hard copy in one of the following ways:

- Show you the original book
- Provide a copy of the Library of Congress cataloging information from the original source or from the Library of Congress Online catalog (<http://www.catalog.loc.gov/>)
- Show official communication from the publisher or author indicating the printed publication in which the selection can be found

PROOF PROSE IS FICTION

Contestants can prove their selection is classified as fiction in one of the following ways:

- Show you a copy of the Library of Congress or Dewey Decimal classification system that confirms the selection as fiction, or one of the following: short stories, novels, science fiction, fantasy, or folklore
- Provide a published source that lists the selection as one of the literary forms listed above
- Provide a Fiction Bestseller list such as *The New York Times* that includes their selection
- Provide a legitimate online source such as the author’s official website that confirms the selection as fiction or one of the literary forms listed above

Poetry, Category A: “Exploring Excellence in Poetry”

See the C&CR for a full description of the category.

Contestants are to perform a published poem or poems written by an award-winning poet. All poems shall be written by a single poet. Anonymous poets are not acceptable. The poet must be included on one of the following approved lists:

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| Pulitzer Prize for Poetry | Cave Canem Poet Winners |
| National Book Award for Poetry | Academy Fellowship |
| PEN Voelcker Award for Poetry | Frost Medal for Distinguished Achievement |
| PEN Joyce Osterweil Award for Poetry | Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award |
| PEN Beyond Margins Award | Kate Tufts Discovery Award |
| Pushcart Prize for Poetry | National Book Critics Circle Award |
| Los Angeles Times Book Prize for Poetry | Lenore Marshall Prize |

No other award lists will be accepted. Any published poem by the award-winning poet may be used.

As Contest Director, prior to starting rounds, you should check for the following:

- 1) Proof that the poem(s) are published, printed material
- 2) Proof that the poet is on one of the approved award lists
- 3) Proof that the poet used for Category A is different from the one(s) the student is using for Category B

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

*A selection is NOT considered published, printed material if only posted on the Internet. Contestants can prove their selection is published in hard copy in one of the following ways:

- Show you the original book
- Provide a copy of the Library of Congress cataloging information from the original source or from the Library of Congress Online catalog (<http://www.catalog.loc.gov/>)
- Show official communication from the publisher or author indicating the publication

Special Note: If the selection is drawn from a literary collection or anthology, the contestant must supply one of the following:

- ✓ the original source confirming the selection is included **OR**
- ✓ a photocopy of the table of contents designating the title of the book as well as proof the specific selection is included in that book **OR**
- ✓ an online printout proving the selection is included in the anthology

PROOF POET IS AWARD-WINNER

This may be done in one of the following ways:

- Contestant provides you with a copy of the approved award-winner list (from the official UIL website or official website of one of the approved awards listed) Only recipients are eligible; finalists or nominees are not eligible for this category.
- Provides formal correspondence from the poet's publisher stating author has won one of the approved awards
- Shows you formal correspondence from the poet stating they have won approved award
- Provides other published source such as an encyclopedia, reference book, book jacket, newspaper or magazine article stating the poet has won approved award

Poetry, Category B: "Exploring Poetry"

See the C&CR for complete category description.

The contestant is required to perform published poetry. They **may perform a single poem** or an excerpt of a poem by one poet; or they **may perform a collection** of up to **six** poems by **one or more poets**. If they perform a program, it may be woven or the program may use verbal/nonverbal transitions without weaving. Anonymous poetry is acceptable for this category only.

As Contest Director, prior to starting rounds, you should check for the following:

- 1) Proof that the poem(s) are published, printed material
- 2) Proof that the poet(s) used for Category B is different from the one(s) the student is using for Category A

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

See discussion under Category A.

*See the UIL website for the latest interpretive rulings and examples

Thank you, Contest Directors, for your dedication to running an efficient, fair and equitable contest. We have made every attempt to assist you through the *C&CR*, chapter 4 of the *UIL Prose & Poetry Handbook*, discussion published in the *Leaguer* and on the official UIL website, as well as this instructional memo. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at the State Office in advance of the contest.

Jana Riggins
UIL State Director

jriggins@austin.utexas.edu

State Office: 512.471.5883
Blackberry: 512.672.9533