



Literary Criticism

These directions expand upon but do not replace the information in the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules. The contest director should read Section 940 of the Constitution, then read these guidelines for additional details.

Before the contest

ROOM

Secure a room of adequate size for the number of contestants expected. The room should have chairs and desks or tables of proper height.

MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

The contest director will provide the following.

- A copy of the rules from the *Constitution and Contest Rules*
- Three blank sheets of paper for each contestant
- Stapler
- Red pens for grading (Contestants provide their own pens or pencils.)
- Accurate clock for timing and clock which contestants can see during the contest
- (DISTRICT) One 8 1/2 x 11 envelope per school (8-12)
- Calculators for tabulating scores during the grading period

CONTEST PACKET

The League office will provide the following.

- Instructions
- Copies of the tests and answer keys in a sealed envelope (Do not open the sealed district test packet until just prior to the beginning of the contest. The district director may schedule a specific time and place for contest directors to pick up these packets on the day of the event.)
- Answer sheets
- Contest Evaluation Form
- (REGION) State Meet information cards for state meet qualifiers (11)
- (REGION) Regional awards order form (green)

PERSONNEL

- Contest director. A coach of a contestant may serve as contest director.
- Assistant to the contest director. (DISTRICT) At the district level, the contest director may appoint assistants as needed. (REGION) At the regional level, the UIL staff may appoint an assistant to the contest director from one of the high school campuses in the region, if requested. This individual will serve as a support person for the contest director and may be on hand before, during and after the meet to answer questions which may arise concerning the contest. Coaches of competitors may serve as assistants to the director.

INVENTORY ALL materials, except the district sealed test packet, well in advance. Notify UIL of shortages. If necessary, photocopy needed UIL forms.

FOR MORE information on substitutions, see C&CR, Section 902 (g) (B).

- Graders. When needed, request coaches to serve as graders. The contest director should select by lot an odd number of coaches from the list of volunteers to assist in grading. Use several graders.
- Tiebreaker judges. The contest director may select three to five coaches (whose contestants are not involved in the tie) or other qualified teachers of literature for judging the tie breaking essays.

TIME

- Allot 2 1/2 hours for the literary criticism session. Use up to 20 minutes for opening remarks and instructions and 90 minutes for the test. It is critical to stay on schedule as some contestants may need to go to other events.
- Announce during the opening remarks the time and place of a 15-minute verification period prior to the announcement of results. If possible, have verification time printed in the meet program.

CONTEST ROSTER & RESULTS SHEET

(DISTRICT & REGION) Your meet director will provide to you a contest roster, generated from the UIL Spring Meet Online Entry System. It will list the contestants and alternates from each school. You will need to assign contestant numbers, and may use the numbers next to each contestant's name on the roster. You will also record scores and/or results on the contest roster to give to the meet director, who will then enter results/scores into the Spring Meet Online Entry System.

SUBSTITUTIONS

(DISTRICT) Schools may replace contestants on the official district meet roster with substitutes so long as the substitutes present the contest directors with the appropriate documentation.

- *Students whose names were never entered into the online entry system* may substitute so long as they provide the contest director before the contest begins with a substitute eligibility form (found on the UIL web site and in the appendix) or a letter signed by a designated school official certifying the student's eligibility.
- *Students whose names were entered into the online entry system and hence certified as eligible* are eligible to substitute for a contestant so long as they provide the contest director with written notification (either the substitute form or a letter) signed by the event coach or 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 other contest rosters.

At the conclusion of the meet, submit the substitution forms/letters to the spring meet district director to be filed with the school's original entry (see C&CR, Section 902 (g) (B)).

(REGION) If a member of a school's team is unable to compete, only one substitution may be made. The substitute must submit to the contest director a letter or form (such as the sample form found in the appendix) signed by a designated administrator to certify eligibility. Submit substitution forms to the regional director prior to the contest, or to the contest director during roll call. Do not allow substitutions for individual contestants who are not members of a team.

ALTERNATES (REGION)

Alternates may compete only in the absence of an individual who won first, second or third place in the same district competition. Contest directors should delay calling for alternates until immediately prior to the beginning of the contest.

TEAM COMPETITION

(DISTRICT) Schools may enter as many as four competitors at the district level. While all four competitors may compete for individual honors, only the contestants finishing with the top three scores in the objective portion of the contest count in team competition. A team must have three contestants compete in order to qualify for the team competition. All four members of the winning team will advance to the next higher meet.

(REGION) A team must have a minimum of three contestants to qualify for the team competition. All team members who advance to region qualify to compete for both team and individual honors. Do not exclude them.

SORTING ENVELOPES (DISTRICT)

Provide and label a large (8 1/2 x 11) envelope for each school entered in the district meet. Write the name of the school and contest on the top of the envelopes. Save the sorting envelopes to use after the verification period. Contestants' tests and keys should be placed in the appropriate envelope for return to the literary criticism coach at each school no sooner than Saturday of the respective district week.

During the contest

1. Before the contest begins, the contest director should announce the time and place of the verification period and the announcement of results and should secure a list of volunteers to judge the essays, in case a tie breaking procedure is needed. Announce that contestants and coaches not present at the verification period forfeit their opportunity to raise questions.
2. Read aloud the following statement: “Coaches, contest directors and contestants are responsible for maintaining confidentiality of contest material. Transfer of information relative to the test shall be considered a violation of the academic spring meet code and subject to penalties as outlined in Section 700 of the C&CR. Taking contest materials, including any draft of the essay, from the test site prior to the Saturday of the respective district week is a violation of the confidentiality code. You are requested to write answers on your answer sheets using capital letters.”
3. Seat contestants sparsely around the room, separating contestants from the same school. Exclude from the contest room all persons except contestants, the contest director and an assistant.
4. Assign a number to each contestant. You may use the number beside the contestant’s name on the contest roster. Instruct each contestant to write the number in the space provided at the top of the answer sheet to the left.
5. Open sealed test packet. Ask assistants to help you check every page of every test to make sure that no test is defective. Distribute tests face down to contestants.
6. The contest director should serve as timekeeper and give the start signal. Time should be called after exactly 90 minutes. The contest director should give a verbal notification when 15 minutes of contest time remain.

Grading the contest

- Answer Key Errors. In the case of an error on the answer key of an objectively-scored contest, graders should notify the UIL State Office of the nature of the error and/or contact the respective state contest director to seek clarification. Papers should be judged on correctness rather than on an incorrect answer given in the key.
- Each grader is to be given a key to the questions. At least two graders should verify the answers on each answer sheet in accordance with the key, and use a calculator to compute and verify the score.

INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION

In Part I, award one point for each correct answer. In Part II and Part III, award two points for each correct answer. Do not deduct points for incorrect answers. In Part IV, even though the essay is required of each contestant, no points are awarded. However, should the contestant fail to write the essay in Part IV, disqualify the contestant.

TEAM COMPETITION

(DISTRICT) Schools must have three contestants in order to participate in the team event. For schools that enter four contestants, only the top three scores from among those contestants count toward the team score.

(DISTRICT AND REGION) Team scores and ranks are calculated when results are entered into the online system from the Roster and Results Form. Declare the team with the highest total the winner of the team competition, and all four members of the team and the top second place overall team (wild card) in the region will advance to the regional competition. Declare the team with the second highest total score the alternate team.

TIES

1. Individual competition. *Break all ties through sixth place.* The essays from Part IV should be used in breaking these ties. Only the essays of the those contestants tied for a place will be read and compared. For example, if the top six scores are 93, 92, 90, 90, 89 and 88, the first place winner (93) and the second place winner (92) are clear. Break the tie between the two contestants scoring 90 each by judging the essays of these two contestants to determine who places third and who is the alternate or fourth place winner.

WILD CARD

Each region’s highest scoring second place team may advance to the regional academic meet. In the event of a tie, all teams involved in the tie will advance.

IN ORDER to be eligible as a wild card representative, district results must be received by the regional director no later than 5 p.m. on the Monday following the final district academic week. Failure to meet the deadline disqualifies the district from advancing teams as wild card representatives. The highest-scoring second place team from the regional meets may advance to the Academic State Meet.

INDIVIDUAL POINTS

1st place.....	15
2nd place.....	12
3rd place.....	10
4th place.....	8
5th place.....	6
6th place.....	4

TEAM POINTS

1 ST Place.....	10
2 ND Place.....	5

Individual school maximum points = 37

LITERARY CRITICISM team members also qualify to compete for individual awards at all levels.

Coaches or other qualified teachers of literature may be selected by the contest director for the judging of the tie breaking essays. If ties exist, three coaches whose contestants are not involved in the tie or other judges should be asked to read the essays of only the tied contestants. The decision of the judges about which essay is better will determine the winner of the tie. The essay should be judged on how well the contestant followed the instructions accompanying the questions, the excellence of the literary insights expressed, the effectiveness of the written expression and the correctness of the writing.

- **Team Competition.** If at the district or regional meet two or more teams vying for first place have the same team score, first place shall be awarded to the team with the highest score of the fourth-place team member. Should two or more contestants who are the fourth-place team member have the same score, then a team tie will be declared and all teams involved in the tie shall advance. A team without a fourth member forfeits the right to participate in the tiebreaker. At the State Meet, no tie breaking procedure will be used for teams in any place; if two first place awards are made based on a declared tie, there will be no second place, etc.

After the contest

VERIFICATION PERIOD

- **Unofficial Results.** Ask contestants and coaches to refrain from using a pen or pencil during this time. Unofficial results including names and scores of those who appear to have placed first through sixth place and of the top two teams should be announced and written on the board. Allow the contestant and coach a time period not to exceed 15 minutes to look at the contestant's test/answer sheet and recorded score. If errors in scoring are found, the contest director should make the correction. Resolve questions at this time. Contestants and coaches who are not present at the verification period forfeit their opportunity to raise questions.
(DISTRICT) Ask contestants to place their papers in their school's envelopes. Pick up all tests and answer sheets so that none remain with the contestant or coach.
- **Official Results.** After all questions have been resolved, the contest director should announce, as official results, the name and the school of each contestant who places first through sixth and the top two teams. These results, once announced as official, shall be final.

QUALIFICATIONS TO REGIONAL (DISTRICT)

Contestants can qualify to regional as individual first, second or third place winners or members of the winning team or wild card team. All who qualify to regional will compete for individual honors.

POSTING RESULTS DURING THE MEET

Announce or post the names, schools and scores of the persons placing first through sixth, and the names, school and scores of the winning and alternate team.

RETURNING PAPERS

(DISTRICT) If results are final and all test questions resolved, entries may be returned no sooner than the end of the contest on the Saturday of the respective district week.

(REGION) If all questions are resolved and if the meet is held on Saturday, the test and answer sheets should be returned to the contestants the day of the meet.

REPORT TO DIRECTOR

(DISTRICT) Individual contest directors shall give the contest roster/results form and sorting envelopes to the district director immediately after the contest. The district meet director is responsible for entering results into the UIL Spring Meet Online Entry System. District results must be submitted into the UIL online system and made available for public review by 5 p.m. on Monday following the second district meet.

(REGION) Individual contest directors shall give the contest roster/results form and sorting envelopes to the regional director immediately after the contest. The regional meet director is responsible for entering results into the UIL Spring Meet Online Entry System and making them available for public review by 5 p.m. of the Monday following the regional meet. Regional directors shall also provide a list of contestant absentees if alternates were not present to take these individuals' places.

MAILING RESULTS

Mailing full meet results to participating schools is optional since results will be posted online.

EXTRA CONTEST MATERIALS

(DISTRICT) Destroy all extra materials on the Monday following the second district week.

(REGION) Destroy all extra materials on the Monday following the regional meet.

**ENTER
ALL
SCORES
INTO ONLINE
SYSTEM!**

Enter the scores of all contestants into the UIL Spring Meet Online Entry System — not just the top six. All scores are needed to determine team champions. The UIL strongly urges meet officials to enter unofficial results into the online system prior to verification.

2009-10 READING LIST

LITERARY CRITICISM

HANDBOOK TO LITERATURE

Authority for Part I
of the contest,
Literary History and
Literary Terms: *A
Handbook to Litera-
ture*,
10th or 11th edition
William Harmon, ed.
11th Edition
ISBN 0136014399

The book is available
from Prentice-Hall:
800-848-9500
www.mypearsonstore.com

and

TEP, Inc:
800-443-2078
www.tepbooks.com

FICTION

Samuel Butler's *Erewhon*

Penguin Books. Paperback. ISBN: 978-0-14-043057-8. List price: \$14 web: us.penguin.com

TEP, Inc. (Texas Educational Paperbacks) List price: \$9.10 plus shipping 4433 Mint Way, Dallas, TX 75236.

Toll free: 800-443-2078 Fax: 800.437.7070 web: www.tepbooks.com

Project Gutenberg HTML: www.gutenberg.org/files/1906/1906-h/1906-h.htm

Project Gutenberg Plain Text: www.gutenberg.org/files/1906/1906.txt

POETRY

Thomas Hardy's selected poems

The Mentor Book of Major British Poets, Oscar Williams, ed.

Signet. Paperback. ISBN 0-451-62637-0.

Penguin Group USA List price \$8.99. web: us.penguin.com

TEP, Inc. (Texas Educational Paperbacks) List price: \$5.84 plus shipping 4433 Mint Way, Dallas, TX 75236.

Toll free: 800-443-2078 Fax: 800.437.7070 web: www.tepbooks.com

All twenty-four of the Thomas Hardy selections in *The Mentor Book of Major British Poets* have been chosen for UIL competition. Any unabridged edition of these selections is appropriate for the competition.

- The Darkling Thrush
- The Subalterns
- Hap
- The To-Be-Forgotten
- Neutral Tones
- To Lizbie Browne
- Wessex Heights
- Channel Firing
- The Last Chrysanthemums
- The Souls of the Slain
- To an Unborn Pauper Child
- In Tenebris
- The Ruined Maid
- A Refusal
- Convergence of the Twain
- No Buyers
- In Time of "Breaking of Nations"
- Afterwards
- The Going
- The Oxen
- The Man He Killed
- After a Journey
- The Phantom Horsewoman
- Who's in the Next Room?

DRAMA

Sophocles' *Antigone* Dudley Fitts and Robert Fitzgerald, trans.

Any unabridged version of the Fitts-Fitzgerald translation is appropriate for the competition. To find anthologies in which the play appears, check *Plays in Print* in the reference section of a large library.

TEP, Inc. (Texas Educational Paperbacks)

[Sophocles' *The Oedipus Cycle*] ISBN: 9780156027649. List price: \$9.10 plus shipping

4433 Mint Way, Dallas, TX 75236. Toll free: 800-443-2078 Fax: 800.437.7070
web: www.tepbooks.com