

General Contest Information (cont.)

Contest Grade Divisions

This contest will consist of one division (second/third) unless the district executive committee approves separate divisions for each grade.

Length of Contest

There is no minimum or maximum limit on the presentation.

Available Sets of Material

Two stories will be provided, one to be used in the preliminary round and one to be used in the final round. The UIL will make available one pair of stories for invitational meets, one pair for fall/winter district meets and one pair for spring district meets.

Judging/Scoring Rules

Criteria: Judges will use an evaluation sheet provided by the UIL defining the criteria including, but not limited to, ability of the contestant to command attention, originality, facial expressions, vocal variety, characterization, eye contact, gestures, posture, articulation and enthusiasm. Contestants should include at least one key element of the story in their presentations, and an absence of at least one key story element in the presentation should be considered by the judge when ranking contestants. The judge's decisions on this matter shall be final.

Briefing Judges: The judges should be instructed to evaluate all the contestants. If possible, judges should not hear the same students in both preliminary and final rounds. The judges shall not be permitted to hear the story as it is told to the contestants. Judges will be provided a list of key plot and character elements from the story.

Ranking the Contestants: Ranks shall be determined through sixth place by the director. If a panel of judges is used, the contest director shall tabulate all judges' ranks to determine places. See "Instructions for Contest Directors of Speaking Events" for more information.

FAQs about Rules

May students take notes while the story is being read?

Students may use paper and pencil to organize their thoughts while waiting after the story has been read. (this is a local decision). They may not take these notes in while they recite their story.

How many contest rooms are necessary?

Determine the number of rooms that will be necessary by the number of sections. If there are more than eight contestants, both a preliminary and final round are mandatory. One room is needed for students to hear the story told and wait their turn to present. Also, provide a room for tabulating results, which may be used for other speaking events.

May districts create sections larger than eight students?

No. The largest section is eight students.

Are audiences permitted during the contest?

Audiences are permitted. Audiences should be instructed to remain seated and quiet during all presentations. Audience courtesy should be extended at all times.

May a student be coached during the event?

Contestants may not receive prompting of the story plot or details.