



PROSE READING

ROUND _____ SECTION _____ ROOM _____ JUDGE _____ HOUR _____

- 13.15.1. Communication among judges during the round.** Judges must make independent decisions. Judges shall not discuss decisions with other judges prior to turning in ballots. Timekeepers may share the length of a given speech only. If questions arise regarding the rules or conduct of an event, judges shall ask at Speech State Championships headquarters.
- 13.15.2. Length.** There is no minimum time limit; contestants shall speak no more than eight minutes with a 30-second period of grace including the introduction and reading. If laughter delays the speaker, the timekeeper shall make allowance by stopping the watch at the beginning and starting it at the end of each interruption.
Time signals may be given at the speaker’s request; however, presentation within the time length is ultimately the responsibility of the speaker.
Contestants who violate the time limit may receive a lower rank. No contestant may be penalized if a stopwatch was not used for timing.
- 13.15.3. Introduction.** Each reader shall appropriately introduce the reading. Introductions should be memorized or delivered extemporaneously.
- 13.15.4. Presentation.** The materials are to be read from a manuscript or printed page. Continued practice during the time of preparation may result in memorization of some passages. The aim of the reader, however, should not be complete memorization. Rather frequent references must be made to the manuscript during the presentation of the materials. Contestants may use limited gestures while standing in one place and freely using facial, verbal and vocal expression. Contestants may use transition steps during introductions and transitions, which should be presented in an extemporaneous manner making use of appropriate gestures and physical movements.
- 13.15.5. Changing Readings.** Materials read at the District Tournament must also be read at the Speech State Championships.
- 13.15.6. Materials.**
 - (a) The materials shall be cuttings from published, printed short stories, novels or essays, published electronically or in print. No material may be presented from any work that is identified as a play / drama, poem, stand-up-comedy routine, sermon or speech.
 - (b) **Digital (Online) Publications.** *See 11.7 General Contest Rules: Sources for Interpretation Events.*
 - (c) Adaptations may be made for the purpose of continuity only. Selections may be chosen from any good literature without regard to publication date.
 - (d) Both narration and dialogue are encouraged, but MORE THAN 50% OF THE WORDS IN THE SELECTION MUST BE NARRATION.
- 13.15.7. Re-use.** No speaker may use a cutting from the same source that the speaker used in any contest previous to the current school year.
- 13.15.8. Overlap.** Students may not use the same material or cuttings from the same source, in Prose Reading and any other interpretation event.
- 13.15.9. Manuscript Submission.** Interpretation events must bring an original, electronic or photocopied version of their script(s) and original source material to State.
- 13.15.10. Instructions to the Judges.** This is a contest for the interpretation of a cutting from a published, printed short story, novel or essay. No speaker shall be penalized for a lack of dialogue in their presentation. The responsibility of the speaker is to entertain the audience with the material used. The speaker should suggest the characters, moods and changes of situation largely through his voice. Characterizations should be confined to facial expressions, postures and character placement, but there should be no movement of the entire body.
Special Note. Judges should expect that some readers, from constant practice of their selections, may be able to present portions from memory. Speakers are not to be penalized for this, as long as they refer rather frequently to their manuscripts or to the printed page in front of them.

	SPEAKER	SELECTION	RATING	RANK
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____	_____	_____

NO ORAL CRITIQUES

Judge’s Signature _____