



# PROSE READING BALLOT

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Round \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_  
 Student Code / School \_\_\_\_\_ Judge Name / Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Topic \_\_\_\_\_ Length of Speech \_\_\_\_\_

*Please comment on the following areas using the questions as guides. See reverse for OSAA rules.*

## Introduction

- Were the title and author appropriately identified?
- Was an appropriate mood created?

## Selection

- Was the selection cut well so that the plot could be easily followed?
- Did the selection build to appropriate climaxes?

## Presentation

- Did the interpreter effectively use facial expressions and vocal inflection to enhance the interpretation?
- Was the delivery consistent with the mood intended by the author?
- Were the various characters in the selection easily distinguished from one another?

## Overall Effectiveness

- What was the total effect of the presentation upon you, the critic, as compared to other speakers in the round?

**CIRCLE THE NUMBER BELOW THAT INDICATES THE RATING OF THIS SPEAKER. TIES ARE PERMITTED.**

EXCELLENT					GOOD					FAIR									
50	49	48	47	46	45	44	43	42	41	40	39	38	37	36	35	34	33	32	31

**RANK THE SPEAKER COMPARED TO THE OTHER SPEAKERS. NO TIES ARE PERMITTED.**

1   2   3   4   5   6   7

# OSAA PROSE READING RULES

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.
  2. **Length.** 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.
    - a) Time signals may be given at the speaker's request; however, presentation within the time length is ultimately the responsibility of the speaker.
    - b) Contestants who violate the time limit may receive a lower rank. No contestant may be penalized if a stopwatch was not used for timing.
  3. **Introduction.** Each reader shall appropriately introduce the reading. Introductions should be memorized or delivered extemporaneously.
  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.
  5. **Changing Readings.** Materials read at the District Tournament must also be read at the Speech State Championships.
  6. **Materials.**
    - B. The materials shall be cuttings from published, printed short stories, novels or essays. For the purposes of this rule, materials published only electronically are not considered to be "published" or "printed." No material may be presented from any work that is identified as a play / drama, poem, stand-up-comedy routine, sermon or speech.
    - 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.
  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.
  8. **Overlap.** Students may not use the same material or cuttings from the same source, in Prose Reading and any other interpretation event.
  9. **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 his or her 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.