



# MASTER BALLOT PROSE READING

Round Number: \_\_\_\_\_ (1,2,3,SF,F) Section: \_\_\_\_\_ Room Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Please **Print** Name and Affiliation

*Please review the judging considerations on the reverse side of this form.*

Code	Name	Rank (No ties)	Rating

Judge Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



## PROSE READING



### ***Definition & General Rules:***

The contestant shall take not less than 5 nor more than 10 minutes, to read from a manuscript a published poem or selection of poems. The poetry may either be lyrical or narrative, but dramatic poetry or cuttings from plays are not permitted. The presentation may consist of a single poem or of several poems. A program of poems must be unified by reason of author or theme.

### ***Judging Considerations: (The National Forensic League)***

Prose is writing which corresponds to usual (ordinary, common) patterns of speech. Unlike poetry, which emphasizes emotions and/or ideas expressed through figurative language recorded in verse and stanza, prose expresses thought through language recorded in sentences and paragraphs. Prose includes fiction (short stories, novels) and nonfiction (articles, essays, journal entries, biographies). Cuttings from plays (dramas) may not be read in this contest. The purpose of this contest is to encourage the student to find, understand, experience, and share a prose work through the art of oral reading.

The contestant will have prepared a presentation, including a required introduction which will state at least the title(s) and the author(s). The presentation itself may be of an entire work, a cutting of a single longer work, or a collection of shorter works or short cuttings of longer works by one author or several authors arranged in a program. Any prose used in the performance must have been printed and published.

The contestant will perform this reading (interpretation) using a manuscript (which may be in a folder). Reading from a book or magazine is not permitted. Since the contestant will be holding a manuscript, use of that manuscript should be an integral part of the performance. Responsive use of the body (i.e., spontaneous changes in posture and gesture) is permissible so long as this active use of the body is appropriate to the demands of the selection and a natural outgrowth from the literature being performed. Along with appropriate, effective physical presentation, the contestant will also be evaluated in terms of technique (breathing, tone, pitch, enunciation, phrasing, pace, etc.) and artistry (presentation of mood, vocal characterization, flow of narration, etc.).

The final test of good interpretation is the ability to use all these factors so successfully and unobtrusively that the audience forgets that this is a contest and in a created atmosphere is carried into the real or imagined world of the selection.

### ***Time constraints:***

5-10 minutes with a 30 second grace period. Penalties for "excessive" over-undertime are at the discretion of the judge.