

# UIL Academics: Event Descriptions

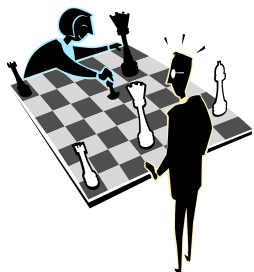


## Art

The art contest involves the study of 40 paintings from the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. and from Texas art galleries and museums. Students learn to recognize and identify various works of art and the artists who created them. As part of their study, they will demonstrate a basic understanding of art history and interpret ideas and moods in original art works.

## Calculator Applications

The calculator applications contest is designed to stimulate the development of mathematical and calculator skills. Goals are both intellectual and practical: developing mathematical reasoning and knowledge and requiring the application of problem-solving skills toward realistic problems.



## Chess Puzzle

The benefits of chess are well documented for players of all ages, and especially for young people. Chess teaches problem solving, hones concentration and encourages analytical and strategic thinking. Chess can be a lifelong pursuit. Chess puzzle solving introduces students to the study of chess in a format that can be easily implemented in A+ school programs and district meets.

## Dictionary Skills

Thorough knowledge of the dictionary is a way to increase a student's ability to find the information that is needed for class work as well as everyday living. The subject matter of all tests is taken from *Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary*. Contestants may use other dictionaries in the contest, but the correct test answers will be found in the official dictionary.





# Editorial Writing

Texas teachers have always looked for ways to improve their students' writing skills. The editorial writing contest will build those skills as well as refine the students' ability to prepare a well-balanced persuasive paper.

## Impromptu Speaking

Impromptu speaking provides opportunities for students to explore the use of the voice and body in speaking situations, to examine the different purposes for speaking, to organize ideas, to prepare and deliver various speeches and to develop self-confidence. And it's fun!



## Listening

The listening contest is designed to help students recognize the importance of effective listening skills and to identify problems they may have in listening effectively. The contest provides a challenging format to test the improvement of their listening abilities, and encourages students to develop the foundation skills they will need throughout their lives, both in and out of the classroom.

## Maps, Graphs, and Charts

The maps, graphs and charts contest is designed to help students learn to obtain information from a variety of maps, graphs and charts including world maps, pie charts, bar graphs and local area maps. Tests will include previously published maps as well as charts, graphs and maps the students will never have seen before. The objective test will measure skills such as using a reference book to locate information, making comparisons, estimating and approximating, using scale and interpreting legends and keys.



## Mathematics

Learning to complete math problems quickly is a valuable skill in all facets of life including engineering, accounting, completing a tax return and even grocery shopping. This contest provides opportunities for students to further develop and then apply their math knowledge and skills.

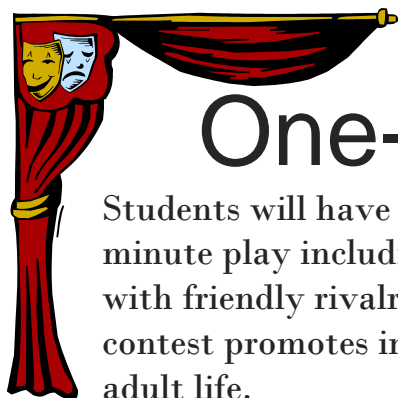


## Modern Oratory (speech)

In modern oratory, contestants will select one of the topics, determine the critical issues in the topic, and acknowledge both pro and con points citing support discovered in their research. Students will choose a side to defend and support that side with additional evidence.

## Number Sense

Every day, individuals are called upon to use their ability to make quick mental calculations to make decisions. The development of such abilities is an integral part of the math curriculum.



## One-Act Play

Students will have the opportunity to work in all aspects of the production of a 40-minute play including the opportunity to satisfy the competitive, artistic spirit with friendly rivalry among schools, emphasizing high quality performance. The contest promotes interest in an art form most readily usable in leisure time during adult life.



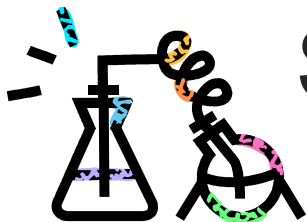
## Oral Reading – Poetry and Oral Reading - Prose



Reading literature out loud provides opportunities for students to analyze the text, to grow and to develop as a performer, to communicate a message to an audience and to perform an artistic creation. The oral reading competition should be an extension of the classroom literary and language arts activities in poetry, short stories and children's fiction.

# Ready Writing

Texas puts great emphasis on writing skills at all levels of school and all levels of state-wide testing. Ready writing builds those skills and helps students refine their writing abilities. In particular, this contest helps them learn to write a clear and correct paper that is interesting and original.



## Science

Emphasis for the science contest will be placed on knowledge of scientific fact, understanding of scientific principles and the ability to think through scientific problems. The contest is designed to test not only memory but the ability to think critically about science and science concepts.



## The Social Studies Contest



This contest is designed to encourage students to expand their knowledge of social studies, particularly in the areas of history, government systems, economics, citizenship and culture. Students will be given an objective test containing approximately 40 questions which must be answered in 30 minutes.



## Spelling



The spelling contest is designed to expose students to a wide variety of vocabulary words. It is not a contest of memorization. For the most educational value, preparation for this contest should include instruction in the rules of the English language, meanings and definitions, and root words.