

READY WRITING



Texas UIL

High School Practice Packet Spring 2021



UIL READY WRITING PRACTICE PACKET

SPRING 2021

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— President Hexco Inc., Linda Tarrant

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IF YOU LIKE THIS PRODUCT, WE ALSO RECOMMEND:
Ready Writing Concepts and *Ready To Write Handbook*
Ready Writing Region Practice Packet Volumes 1 and 2
Ready Writing State Practice Packet
Ready Writing Practice Packets (previous years)

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JUDGING GUIDELINES - ABOUT EXPOSITORY WRITING & THIS CONTEST

Expository writing forms the basis of the UIL Ready Writing Contest. In its simplest dictionary definition, *expository* means *explanatory*. Expository writing, according to UIL rules, "explains, proves, or explores a topic in a balanced way, allowing the argument and the evidence given to be the deciding factor in the paper." Plainly stated, it is writing with a logical approach. Expository writing is designed to shed light on a chosen topic by presenting a clearly defined perspective. It is not meant to be highly persuasive, nor should it rely heavily on emotional appeal. The rules add that "descriptive or narrative passages may be used to illustrate or reinforce an idea or point, but they must be clearly subservient or incidental to the purpose of the exposition." This means contestants may introduce an illustration from their own experiences, an episode from history, or a fable, but only to *support* their arguments.

Ready Writing challenges contestants in ways other competitions do not. While most others include predetermined topics, extensive materials, reading lists, or study guides, Ready Writing requires contestants to utilize a toolbox contained entirely in their minds. In addition, the contents of this toolbox are unique, compared to those you would pack for a standard essay-writing scenario.

Contestants should carry an understanding of their audience. In Ready Writing this is you, a judge, who has read many essays and whose job it is to grade them in three specific areas: Interest, Organization, and Correctness of Style. Sixty percent of the score will come from Interest, thirty percent from Organization, and the remaining ten from Correctness of Style.

Interest is where contestants are scored for creativity and logic, beginning with an effective title, and providing examples that reveal a unique, yet structured perception of the topic. It does not mean that a wild story receives a top score! Instead, contestants receive a high score in this area for original thought, solid perspective, and pertinent examples. This is where personality and a distinctive perspective mold the essay, and where style personalizes the work. In short, this is the area in which contestants will benefit most from being themselves.

Organization pertains to the structure of the essay. The most interesting and educated perspective on a topic can be completely undermined by poor organization. Look for essays that follow a logical flow of ideas in which the main points support the thesis.

When scoring Correctness of Style, examine punctuation, sentence structure, grammar, word usage, and spelling. Proper grammar and clear sentence structure demonstrate a contestant's attention to detail and pride in his or her written work, not to mention a mastery of the mechanics of the written word.

It is essential that contestants approach this contest with a big picture mentality; focusing on only one of the three areas will not suffice. Your objective as a judge is to evaluate all aspects of the essay. Remember that the UIL rules have assigned different "weights" for each of the three elements, so an honest assessment of each will result in a fair score.

Ready Writing Invitational Test F20-A

Topic I "Everything we hear is an opinion, not a fact. Everything we see is a perspective, not the truth."

Marcus Aurelius, *Meditations*, 180 CE

Topic II "To err is human, to forgive, divine."

Alexander Pope, *An Essay On Criticism*, 1711