

Section 214
LITERARY CRITICISM CONTEST

All rules in Section 209 apply to this contest.

A. NATURE OF THE CONTEST.

1. *Test Questions.* The 90-minute 65 multiple choice and essay test requires knowledge of literary history and of critical terms, and ability in literary criticism. Students are tested over material on the reading list and required to select the best answers involving judgment in literary criticism. Students must also analyze literary passages not on the reading list. A tie breaker is required in which the student must write a short essay dealing with a specified topic about a short literary passage.

B. SOURCES AND ESSAY.

1. *Sources.* *A Handbook to Literature* by William Harmon and C. Hugh Holman, (current edition), state adopted texts, and the reading list for the current year will be used as sources for the tests. The TAPPS office will give the current reading list as soon as it is made available.
2. *Essays.* Although the essay section will only be used if a tie exists, all contestants are required to write an essay. No points will be awarded for the essay question. The following are judging criteria for the essays:
 - a. How well the contestant followed the instructions accompanying the questions;
 - b. The excellence of the literary insights expressed;
 - c. The effectiveness of the written expression; and
 - d. The grammatical correctness of the writing.

C. CONDUCTING THE CONTEST.

1. *Reading the Contest Instructions.* The contest director will read the following directions exactly as they are printed:
 - a. Turn off all cell phones and/or audible timing devices.
 - b. Put your name, school, and school classification in the directed place on your test and answer sheet. Failure to put your name and school will result in disqualification. (Allow time for this to be done).
 - c. Indicate your answers using capital letters on the appropriate blank provided on the answer sheet. If a Scantron is used, mark your answers in the appropriate spaces. Only a #2 pencil may be used for Scantron cards. Failure to do so will result in disqualification. Clean erasures are necessary for accurate Scantron grading.
 - d. Keep your papers closed until told to do otherwise; this is particularly important while test papers are being distributed and before the signal to begin has been given.
 - e. During the test, no questions may be asked or answered. The contestant talking or making distracting noises may be disqualified.
 - f. Leaving the room with any contest materials will result in disqualification.
 - g. Transferring information concerning this test to other contestants or coaches is a violation of the Academic Meet Code and subject to penalties up to and including disqualification.

- h. You have 90 minutes for this test.
 - i. You will receive one point for each correct answer on questions 1-30, and 2 points for questions 31-65. No points will be given or subtracted for unanswered questions. The score from the objective portion will determine your score. If there is a tie, the essay for those contestants will be read and ranked. No points will be given for the essay.
 - j. If you finish the test before the end of the allotted time, you may turn in your test, answer sheet and essay and quietly leave the room. No talking or distracting noises will be permitted.
 - k. When the signal is given to stop, you must cease all writing.
3. *Start and Stop Signals.* Exactly 90 minutes after the start signal was given, announce that time has expired.
4. *Scoring.* Each contestant shall be awarded one point for questions 1-30 answered correctly, 2 points for questions 31-65 answered correctly and no points will be given or subtracted for unanswered questions on the objective portion of the test. The essays will only be read if a tie exists. Each contestant is required to write a short essay. No points will be given for the essay. Three judges who are not coaches of the tied contestants shall rank the essay sections. The judges will not discuss their rankings with one another. Each judge will inform the meet director of their ranking preference. The following are judging criteria for the essays:
- a. How well the contestant followed the instructions accompanying the questions;
 - b. The excellence of the literary insights expressed;
 - c. The effectiveness of the written expression; and
 - d. The grammatical correctness of the writing.
5. *Ties.* In the event of a tie, three judges will rank those essays involved in the tie. The tie will be broken by **judges' preference**. The judges' preference is written, not oral. See the example for judges' preference in the Forms Manual. If a top essay cannot be determined, then a tie exists.