THE CONTEST

Nearly 4500 high schools across the country and 112 high schools in Pennsylvania participate in the annual Poetry Out Loud (POL) national recitation contest! Your high school’s champion will participate in the regional finals; the regional champion will participate in the state finals. Our region includes Northampton, Lehigh, Carbon, and Monroe.

Poetry Out Loud is a free program offered to every high school student in Pennsylvania. Poetry Out Loud encourages students to learn about great poetry through memorization, performance, and competition. Studying literature, including poetry, practicing speaking, listening, language and reading skills strongly supports your district’s curriculum. You may see the teachers’ guide at: http://www.poetryoutloud.org/teaching-resources/teacher-preparation

• The teachers’ guide offers suggestions so that you can customize the program to meet your time & schedule constraints.
• Teachers and students have access to the website and support materials that include nearly 800 poems, media guides and more.

GETTING INVOLVED

• Complete the Intent to Participate form by December 6, 2021: https://fest.formstack.com/forms/poetry_out_loud_2021
• Go to Organizing A Contest | Poetry Out Loud
• Individual or groups of teachers, a school club, or the entire school may participate.
• Teachers can determine the extent of their participation. For example, incorporate POL into a unit of study, perhaps culminating in recitations by each student in front of the class.
• Offer the program as an extra credit project, after school program’s project, or use the lesson plans offered on-line teacher’s guide.
• There must be one winner from your school who will participate in the regional contest.

WHAT MUST STUDENTS DO?

Choose a poem from the POL anthology to memorize and recite. Nearly 800 poems are on-line, some of the poems have been retired.

• Go to: Search | Poetry Out Loud
• Recitations may not include props, costumes, or music. Some gestures and minimal movement may, however, be appropriate to a given poem.

THE WINNER

Each school’s winner will then participate in the regional contest scheduled for Tuesday, February 1, 6:30 PM.

• Participants will prepare three (3) poems to recite.
• The regional winner will participate in the state competition on March 7, 2022.
• The state winner will receive $200 and will get to compete in the national championship in May.
• The state winner’s school will receive a $500 stipend to purchase poetry books. A runner-up in each state will receive $100 with $200 for his/her school to purchase poetry books.

MORE INFORMATION

• Go to poetryoutloud.org
• Check out last year’s Regional Competition: https://youtu.be/Jmt1_p1Un84
• Email Joanne Garcia at jgarcia@artsquest.org with any questions.