



2018 Poetry Out Loud contest The Basics!

Nearly 4500 high schools across the country and 112 high schools in Pennsylvania participate in the annual Poetry Out Loud (POL) national recitation contest! Join us! Your high school's champion will participate in the regional finals; the regional champion will participate in the state finals. Our region includes Adams, Franklin, Fulton, and York counties. The state champion will travel expense-free to Washington, DC for the national finals.

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.
- The guide also suggests ways to teach recitation and performance, a DVD of distinguished actors and writers reciting and talking about poetry, media guides, and promo materials.
- Teachers and students have access to the website and support materials that include nearly 800 poems, media guides and more.

Getting involved

- 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 some or all of the lesson plans offered on-line teacher's guide.

- Whatever you plan, the end result should be one winner from your school who will participate in the regional contest scheduled for Thursday, February 1 at 7 pm in Gettysburg at the historic Majestic Theatre. Snow date: Saturday, February 3 at 10 am.

What Must Students Do?

Choose a poem from the POL anthology to memorize and recite. Nearly 800 are on-line. **SOME POEMS HAVE BEEN RETIRED.** GO TO <http://www.poetryoutloud.org/poems-and-performance/ineligible-poems>

- 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 Thursday, February 1, 7:00 pm. in Gettysburg.

- Participants will prepare three (3) poems to recite.
- The **regional winner** will participate in the state competition on **March 4 and 5, 2018 at the State Museum in Harrisburg.**
- The state winner will receive \$200 and an all-expense paid trip (with a chaperone) to Washington, DC to compete for 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.

Please complete the Intent to Participate form, return it by Monday, December 4, 2017 (sooner is better), to your regional coordinator (Hilary Trout at culturalalliancepol@gmail.com) and we'll keep you informed as plans for the regional contest progress. Hope you can join us!