

POETRY OUT LOUD

In Washington State

FACT SHEET 2009-2010



Program Overview

Recitation and performance are major trends in poetry. There has been a resurgence of poetry as an oral art form, as seen in the slam poetry movement and the popularity of hip-hop. **Poetry Out Loud** builds on this momentum by inviting the dynamic aspects of slam poetry, spoken word, and theater into the English class. The National Endowment for the Arts and The Poetry Foundation have partnered with state arts agencies to support **Poetry Out Loud**, which encourages the nation's youth to learn about great poetry through memorization and performance. This exciting program helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage. This is the fifth year that high school students in Washington State will take part in this national program, which culminates with the National Finals in Washington, DC, in April 2010.

Contest Structure and Prizes

Poetry Out Loud uses a pyramid structure that begins at the classroom level. Winners advance from classroom competitions to school-wide, regional, and then state level competitions. One student from each state advances to the National Finals. Each winner at the state level will receive \$200 and an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington D.C. to compete for the national championship. The state winner's school will receive a \$500 stipend for the purchase of poetry books. A runner-up in each state will receive \$100, with \$200 for his or her school library. Additionally, a total of \$50,000 in scholarships and school stipends will be awarded to the winners at the National Finals.

School Eligibility, Program Materials and Schedule

The **Poetry Out Loud** competition is open to any school in Washington State serving students in grades 9-12. A minimum of 2-3 participating teachers per school is required. The state is divided into five regions: Eastern Washington, Central Washington, Southwest Washington, Puget Sound and Northwest Washington. Each registered school will be connected with the closest regional coordinator. Regional competitions will be held in Spokane, Yakima, Vancouver, Tacoma and Mount Vernon.

Teachers participating in **Poetry Out Loud** have access to a variety of support materials, including:

- A Teacher's Guide to help instructors teach recitation and performance
- A comprehensive website that includes poetry resources, lesson plans and video clips
- An extensive online poetry anthology of over 600 poems

Schedule: The program takes approximately 2-3 weeks of class time, and can take place anytime between September and January. School-wide finals must be completed by the end of January; Regional Finals will take place in early February; and the Washington State Final will take place in early March. Register for **Poetry Out Loud** at: <http://www.arts.wa.gov/education/poetry-out-loud/entry-form.shtml>. The Registration Deadline is November 18th, 2009.

For more information on how your school can participate, please contact Mary Lane at the Washington State Arts Commission: poetry.out.loud@arts.wa.gov.
For more information about Poetry Out Loud, please visit www.poetryoutloud.org.

