

Washington State
POETRY OUT LOUD
Fact Sheet 2016-2017



Program Overview

Recitation and performance are major trends in poetry. *Poetry Out Loud* builds on this momentum by inviting the dynamic aspects of slam poetry, spoken word, and theater into the classroom. The National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation have partnered with state arts agencies to support *Poetry Out Loud*, a program that encourages high school students to learn about great poetry through memorization and performance. This exciting program helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and explore their literary heritage. The Washington State program is produced by the Washington State Arts Commission.

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 state level winner 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 at the National Finals.

School Eligibility, Participation, and Program Materials

- *Poetry Out Loud* is open to any school in Washington State serving students in grades 9-12.
- A minimum of 2-3 participating teachers per school is generally required. One teacher at each school serves as the program coordinator and manages communications and school finals.
- Each registered school will be connected with the closest regional coordinator. School winners move on to compete in one of six regional finals. Regional winners move on to the state final.
- Program materials, all of which are free, include 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, searchable online poetry anthology of over 900 poems; and guidelines for recitation evaluation and scoring.

Program Timeline

- Registration opens: August 15, 2016
- Registration deadline: November 18, 2016
- Classroom Implementation: any 2-3 weeks between September 2016 and early January 2017
- School Finals deadline: January 20, 2017
- Regional Finals deadline: February 5, 2017; regional final competition dates vary by region
- State Final: early March, 2017; Broadway Center for the Performing Arts, Tacoma
- National Finals: April 24-26, 2017, Washington, D.C.

For additional program information, and the online registration form, go to:

www.arts.wa.gov/arts-in-education/poetry-out-loud

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National *Poetry Out Loud* website: www.poetryoutloud.org

