

Washington State
POETRY OUT LOUD
Fact Sheet 2019-2020



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 (ArtsWA).

Contest Structure and Prizes

Poetry Out Loud uses a pyramid structure that begins at the classroom level. Top-scoring students 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 champion will receive \$200 and an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington D.C. to compete for the national championship. The state champion'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. Exceptions may be made for smaller schools, and schools new to the program, on a case by case basis.
- Each registered school will be connected with the closest regional coordinator. School champions move on to compete in one of six regional finals. Regional champions move on to the state final. All students are eligible for participation and advancement in this program.
- 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 950 poems; and guidelines for recitation evaluation and scoring.

Program Timeline

- Registration opens: May 1, 2019
- Registration deadline: November 8, 2019
- Classroom Implementation: Any 2-3 weeks between September 2019 and early January 2020
- School Finals deadline: January 17, 2020
- Regional Finals deadline: February 2, 2020; regional final dates vary by region
- State Final: early March, 2020; Broadway Center for the Performing Arts, Tacoma
- National Finals: Washington, D.C. Late April TBA

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

