



2023-2024 Poetry Out Loud Contest Fact Sheet

Poetry Out Loud is a **free** program offered to every high school student in Pennsylvania. More than 3.8 million high school students from more than 16,000 high schools across the country have participated in this annual contest!

The Poetry Out Loud program encourages students to learn about great poetry through memorization and recitation. Additionally, it helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about literary history and contemporary life.

Contest Structures and Awards

Poetry Out Loud uses a pyramid structure that starts at the school level. Winners advance to a regional then state competition, and ultimately to the National Finals.

View the 2023-2024 teachers' guide at:
https://www.poetryoutloud.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/08/2023-24_POL_TG_4webAccess080323.pdf

- The teachers' guide offers suggestions so that you can **customize** the program to meet your time and schedule constraints.
- The guide suggests ways to teach recitation and performance, links to distinguished actors and writers reciting and talking about poetry, media guides, and promo materials.
- Teachers and students have access to the POL website and support materials that include nearly 800 poems, media guides and more.

Ideas for Getting Started

- 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, or use some or all of the lesson plans offered in the teacher's guide.
- Whatever you plan, the end result should be one winner from your school who will participate in the regional contest.

Students Prepare

Choose poems from the POL anthology to memorize and recite. The anthology has a full list of approved poems: <https://www.poetryoutloud.org/poems-and-performance/find-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, January 25 at 7 pm in Gettysburg at the historic Majestic Theatre. Snow date: Saturday, January 27 at 10 am.

- Participants will prepare three (3) poems to recite.
- The regional winner will participate in the state competition to be held in March 2024.
- The state winner will receive \$200 and the opportunity to compete in the national championship in May 2024.
- The state winner's school will receive a \$500 stipend to purchase poetry books. The 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, October 27, 2023 (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. Questions? Call Hilary at 717-968-6339.

Hope you can join us!