



## Poetry Out Loud Policies and Information

### Pennsylvania Statewide Policies for Poetry Out Loud Competitions

- Each participating school district/community group must be given the opportunity to send **ONE** student to the regional competition. No more. **Runners up should be prepared to participate in the competition in case the winner is unable to do so.**
- *Poetry Out Loud* is designed for high school students, which is typically grades 9 through 12. All 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade students **ARE** eligible to participate in *POL* whether they are in a Junior or Senior High School. 8<sup>th</sup> grade students may be included if they are doing 9<sup>th</sup> grade coursework in the classrooms that are conducting the program. Individual students may participate independently if their school is not holding a competition.
- **Community Groups** such as scouts, local arts councils, homeschoolers, etc. are permitted to implement their own *POL* competitions and send their top winner to the regional competition. Students participating in these community events may only be eligible for regional and state contests if their school district is not participating in *POL*.
- It is recommended that Schools and Community Groups hold a competition of at least two students to select their champion.
- Each student must be prepared to submit three video poem recitations to the virtual regional competition. Depending on the number of participants, judges will view at least two of those poems, i.e., if there are nine or fewer participants, judges will view all three of the participating students' recitations. If there are 10 or more participants, the judges will view at least two of students' virtual recitations. At this level (10 or more participants), approximately 40% of the students should be in the final round for judges to view their third recitations.
- Students must recite their poems from memory.
- Poem selection for regional, state, and national finals: **A) one of the three poems must be pre-20th century** and **B) one of the three poems must be under 25 lines in length.** Both requirements are made to encourage students to look more broadly at the poems available and to encourage they consider choosing classic poems as well as those that do not inspire a long, dramatic interpretation. **One poem may satisfy both criteria.** "Filtered" categories are on the *POL* website anthology to help students find poems that meet these criteria. **Search for eligible poems** using [POL's online anthology](#) which provides search options for [poems](#), [poets](#), and/or [collections](#). Students may also recite poems found in the [Poetry Out Loud Print Anthology Poems](#). The Print Anthology and Master Anthology of Poems may be found on [PCA&M's POL webpage](#) where these and all of our other *POL* documents and forms are posted.
- Some poems require streaming permissions. That list and a guide to securing permission(s) are included in PCA&M's forms and paperwork online [here](#). PCA&M will not be streaming nor broadcasting our regional competition. Be aware that PA Council on the Arts does record and broadcast the state competition at a later date on PCNTV (PA Cable Network).

### Pittsburgh Center for Arts and Media

#### Regional Poetry Out Loud Recitation Competition Information

- Make certain to **submit your school Intent to Participate form** to Mary Brenholts [mbrenholts@pfpca.org](mailto:mbrenholts@pfpca.org) **by January 3, 2025** so that we can process your registration, keep you informed, and communicate with the NEA/*POL*.
- In order to participate in the regional competition **you MUST register your WINNING student** with PCA&M **no later than 5 pm on January 24, 2025** using the Student Regional Competition Registration form.
- Your winning student's bio must be received by **Monday January 27, 2025**.
- PCA&M's regional competition will be held on **Saturday February 1, 2025**. (Snow date is Saturday February 8, 2025.)

