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 attend 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 9th-12th grade students **ARE** eligible to participate in POL whether they are in a Junior or Senior High School. 8th grade students may be included if they are doing 9th grade coursework in the classrooms that are conducting the program.

- **Community Groups** such as scouts, local arts councils, 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.

- **Schools and Community Groups** must hold a competition of at least two students to select their champion.

- Each student must come to the regional competition prepared to recite three poems. Depending on the number of participants, all students will recite at least two of those poems, i.e., if there are nine or fewer participants, each will recite all three of her/his poems. If there are 10 or more participants, each will recite at least two of their poems. At this level (10 or more participants), approximately 40% of the students should be in the final round to recite their third poem.

- Students participating in regional competitions must **not** be given any monetary prizes or gift certificates.

- Poem selection for regional, state, and national finals: A) **one of the three poems must be pre-20th century** and B) **one of the 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. **All poems appearing after September 1 in the online anthology** and those in the print anthology (no longer being published) **are eligible for competition.**

Pittsburgh Center for Arts & Media
Regional Poetry Out Loud Recitation Contest Information

- Make certain to **submit your school participation form** to Mary Brenholts (mbrenholts@pfpca.org) by January 3, 2020 so that we can process your registration.

- In order to participate in the regional competition **you MUST register your WINNING student** no later than January 24, 2020. When setting a date for your school competition, please anticipate the potential for school delays and cancelations due to inclement weather.

- The regional contest will be held on **Saturday, February 8, 2020** at the Harris Theater located at 809 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. Parking is on street or in various parking garages. *(Snow date is Saturday, February 15, 2020.)*

- **Registration will be held from 9:00-9:30 a.m.** We will serve light refreshments (pastries, coffee, tea, and juice) prior to the competition. **Readings will begin at 10 a.m. and run approximately until noon** or as long as necessary based on the number of participants.

- Visit [www.poetryoutloud.org](http://www.poetryoutloud.org) for more information!