



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 virtual 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, 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' 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 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.** Some poems require streaming permissions. That list is included in PCA&Ms forms and paperwork.

Pittsburgh Center for Arts and Media

Virtual Regional Poetry Out Loud Recitation Contest Information

- Make certain to **submit your school Intent to Participate form** to Mary Brenholts (mbrenholts@pfpca.org) **by January 8, 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 29, 2021.**
- Participating students should submit three separate videos, one for each of their poem recitations, saved with their last name_first name_poem number, e.g. Last_First_1, Last_First_2, Last_First_3.
- Video files should be emailed to mbrenholts@pfpca.org via [WeTransfer](#) no later than Monday, February 1, 2021.
- Make sure to view and follow the [2020-21 POL Poetry Out Loud Virtual Competitions & Filming Requirements.](#)
- PCA&M's virtual judging will take place **February 6-13, 2021.**
- Please email Mary Brenholts mbrenholts@pfpca.org or call 412-606-4723 with any questions.