DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities Presents

Poetry Out Loud

State Recitation Contest

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

About Poetry Out Loud:

Poetry Out Loud (POL) is a national arts education program that encourages the study of great poetry by offering educational materials and recitation contests to high schools across the country.

The program starts in the classroom, with participating teachers using the online Poetry Out Loud teacher toolkit to teach poetry recitation and run classroom competitions. Following a pyramid structure, classroom winners advance to a school-wide competition, then to a District-wide competition, and ultimately to the National Finals in Washington, DC. Poetry Out Loud is for high-school students (grades 9 – 12) at public and private schools.

How do I register?

Schools must complete a POL School Registration Form, found on the DCCAH website www.dcarts.dc.gov. Participating schools must appoint a primary point of contact to communicate with the DC Commission about material distribution, school-level competitions and school finalists.

What will we win?

The DC champion will receive $200 and compete at the National Finals in Washington, DC in May 2013. The state champion's school will receive a $500 stipend for the purchase of poetry books. One runner-up in each state will receive $100; his or her school will receive $200 for the purchase of poetry books.

A total of $50,000 in awards and school stipends will be given at the Poetry Out Loud National Finals, with a $20,000 award for the National Champion.

What is the timeline?

The program is designed to take two to three weeks to implement in a classroom setting and does not require full class period instruction. Participating schools will execute the program throughout the fall term, and select a school finalist to participate in the District-wide competition in March 2014.

How do I teach it?

The NEA and the Poetry Foundation have created standards-based curriculum and teacher toolkit. Many teachers use Poetry Out Loud in addition to, or as an extension to their existing curriculum.

Upon registration, each participating teacher/school site will receive a link to a web-based toolkit, which includes a program guide to help teach recitation and performance, an audio guide with selected poems recited by distinguished actors and writers, and print anthologies for students to select their poems – all free of charge. In addition to the tool kit, the Poetry Out Loud website offers resources for teachers including an online forum and an expanded anthology.

The DC Commission offers participating schools an opportunity to work with an Artist-in-Residence to train students in recitation in preparation for their school-wide competition. Participation is not mandatory, but is free of charge.

Who do I call for questions?

DC COMMISSION ON
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