

POETRY OUT LOUD

2015-2016 Program Cycle



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ARTS COUNCIL

Poetry Out Loud : National Recitation Contest



credit: James Kegley

Poetry Out Loud is a national arts education program that encourages the study of great poetry by offering educational materials and a dynamic recitation competition to high school students across the country.

Why was Poetry Out Loud created?



Credit: James Kegley

- To introduce students to classic and contemporary poetry
- To address the decreasing rate of literary reading among young people
- To encourage students to explore their literary heritage
- To help students develop life skills such as poise and public speaking

What are the educational benefits for students?



credit: James Kegley

- Increased literary knowledge
- Improved public speaking skills

What are the benefits for schools?



credit: James Kegley

- Positive visibility
- Enhanced school spirit

Media Coverage

- Local, regional, and national media sources
- Profiles of state and national champions
- Success stories and tales of advancing students
- News stories have reached millions since the first Poetry Out Loud contest in 2005

Wednesday, June 24, 2015
Story last updated at 6/24/2015 - 7:06 pm

Alaska teen brings home national poetry prize

By Mike Dunham | Alaska Dispatch News

ANCHORAGE - Maeva Ordaz brought one dress with her when she flew to Washington, D.C., in April to compete in the national Poetry Out Loud Competition.

"I didn't think I'd need a second one," she said. "I never thought I'd make it to the finals."



Marc Les
Maeva Ordaz

The Washington Post

KidsPost

D.C. students give a voice to verse for Poetry Out Loud contest

By - Mary Quattlebaum April 13



Daiana James, a junior at Benjamin Banneker Academic High School in Washington, won the District Poetry Out Loud championship. She'll compete at the national competition at George Washington

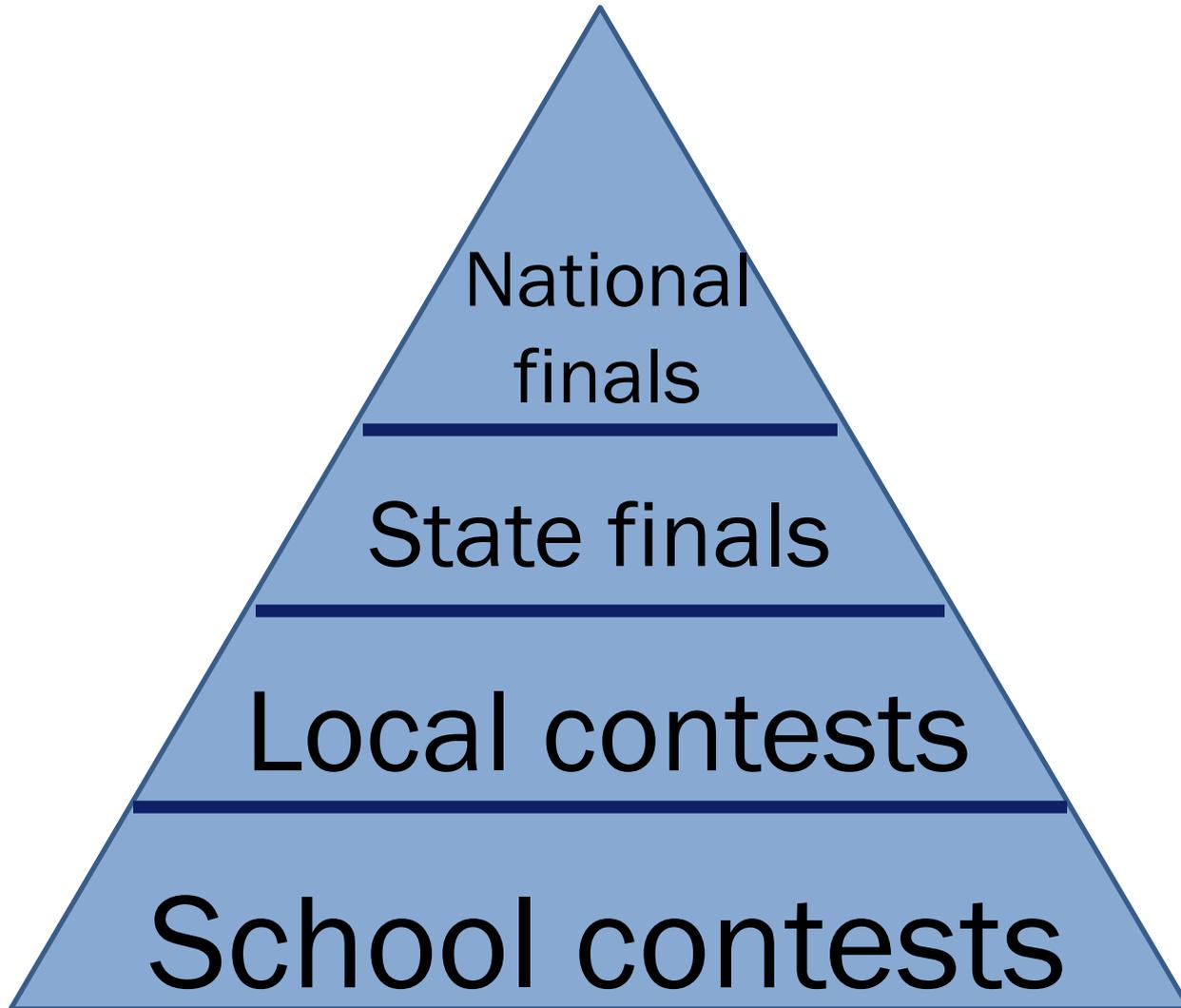
What's the appeal for high school students?

- Cash awards
- Participation builds confidence
- Students enjoy competition
- Students learn from one another



credit: James Kegley

Pyramid Structure Contest





credit: James Kegley

PRIZES AT NATIONAL LEVEL

- \$20,000 for the Poetry Out Loud National Champion
- \$10,000 and \$5,000 for the second- and third-place national finalists
- \$1,000 each for the other nine national finalists
- \$500 stipend for schools of top nine finalists to purchase poetry materials

PRIZES AT STATE LEVEL

- \$200 and an all-expenses-paid trip with an adult chaperone to Washington, DC, to compete in the National Finals
- \$500 stipend for school to purchase poetry materials
- The first runner-up in each state will receive \$100, with \$200 for his or her school library

What do teachers get?

- NCTE & Common Core standards-based teacher's guide
- Website with resources for teachers and students.
www.poetryoutloud.org
- Online anthology with 900+ poems
- Video examples of student performances
- Posters & promotional materials



credit: James Kegley

Poetry Out Loud Curriculum



Credit: James Kegley

- Satisfies most NCTE and Common Core Standards
- Lesson plans tailored to program and with creative writing exercises
- Is designed to take place over 2-3 weeks
- Integrates easily with existing syllabi
- Can take place anytime between fall and early winter
- Will *not* require full class periods

Website Tools for Teachers



The screenshot shows the website for the National Recitation Contest, Poetry Out Loud. The header includes navigation links: About, Rules, FAQ, State Contacts, News, MY FAVORITE POEMS, and STATE PARTNERS LOGIN. A search bar is located in the top right. The main banner features a young man reciting poetry into a microphone, with the text "National Recitation Contest POETRY OUT LOUD". Below the banner are three main menu items: POEMS & PERFORMANCE, TEACHING RESOURCES, and THE COMPETITION. The "TEACHING RESOURCES" section is active, displaying a "Download the Teacher's Guide (PDF 2043k)" button and a "PRINT" button. The page content includes a paragraph: "Every year thousands of teachers integrate Poetry Out Loud into their curricula. This section has everything you need to run a successful program in your classroom." Below this is a photograph of students in a hallway. A sidebar on the left lists navigation options: Teaching Resources, Teacher Preparation, Lesson Plans & Class Schedule, Accessibility, and NCTE and Common Core Standards. A quote from a participant is also visible: "While the competition and chance to recite is wonderful in itself, there is a very strong camaraderie among the competitors like nothing I've experienced before. It's the kind of environment that has inspired me and allowed me to grow not only as a reciter but also as a poet, performer, and person."

- Poetryoutloud.org
- Poetry anthology
- Teacher's guide
- Audio and video clips
- Lesson plans
- Judge's guide
- Tips on hosting a school contest

Website Tools for Students

- “Find a poet” search tool
- “Find a poem” search tool
- Recitation practice checklist
- Daily “featured poet” section with biographies and poems

About | Rules | FAQ | State Contacts | News ★ MY FAVORITE POEMS STATE PARTNERS LOGIN Search

National Recitation Contest
POETRY OUT LOUD

POEMS & PERFORMANCE TEACHING RESOURCES THE COMPETITION

■ Poems & Performance
■ Find Poems
■ Pre-20th Century Poems
■ 25 Lines and Fewer
■ Poetic Forms and Terms
■ Random Poem

■ My Favorite Poems
■ Watch Video
■ Listen to Poetry
■ Tips on Reciting

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING
"I found it especially rewarding to see how positively each student embraced the total experience. Clearly they were having a great time and one that would last a lifetime!"
Alison Schaeffler-Murphy
FL POL Coordinator
[Read more >](#)

Find Poems & Poets PRINT SHARE

ONLY poems listed here or in the current printed anthology are eligible for the 2012-2013 Poetry Out Loud competition. [More information here.](#)

POEMS POETS

Sort by last name A - Z

 Chris Abani (b. 1967)	 Virginia Hamilton Adair (1913–2004)	 Kim Addonizio (b. 1954)	 Ai (1947–2010)
 Richard Aldington (1892–1962)	 Elizabeth Alexander (b. 1962)	 Sherman Alexie (b. 1966)	 Agha Shahid Ali (1949–2001)
			

California Arts Council's Role



credit: James Kegley

- Define scope of state program: currently 44 of 58 counties
- Coordinate state program and state finals event: **FEBRUARY 28th-29th** in Sacramento
- Partner with local arts organizations, agencies and County Offices of Education to administer program and recruit schools, students and teachers

CA POL on arts.ca.gov

www.arts.ca.gov/initiatives/pol.php

CALIFORNIA ARTS COUNCIL CA.GOV

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POETRY OUT LOUD

WHAT IT IS

Poetry Out Loud (POL) is an extraordinary opportunity for high school students to learn great poetry, perform it, and win prizes – including a trip to Washington D.C. for the California State Champion to compete in the national finals. POL is a free program that helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, learn about their literary heritage and compete for college scholarship funding. Nationwide, Poetry Out Loud has grown every year with millions of students participating across the country. California features the largest, most exciting competition of all! Join our [Facebook Group](#) to connect with other participants and check out [poetryoutloud.org](#) to see all of the POL action across the country.

HOW IT WORKS

The structure of Poetry Out Loud is similar to a spelling bee. This annual program starts in the fall with high school teachers using the free Poetry Out Loud teacher toolkit and related materials to teach poetry recitation and run classroom competitions. Poetry Out Loud does not require full class periods and can be completed in 2-3 weeks.

Following a pyramid structure, classroom winners advance to a school-wide competition. Each school's champion competes at the district or county level by mid-February, and county winners are treated to an unforgettable two days at the California Poetry Out Loud State Finals in the State Finals competition is usually held in the

STAFF CONTACTS

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2015-16 IMPORTANT DATES

- Final day to register schools: December 31, 2015
- Final day to submit county competition in December 31, 2015
- Final day to host county competitions and submit results: February 7, 2016
- State Finals (Sacramento): Sunday & Monday February 28 & 29, 2016
- National Finals (Washington, DC): May 2, 2016

RESOURCES

- [CA POL Teacher Recruitment Flyer](#)
- [Teacher's Guide](#)
- [Organizer's Guide](#)
- [Judge's Guide](#)
- [Poetry Out Loud \(National\)](#)
- [Poetry Foundation](#)

VIDEO

Watch the opening day of 2015 CA POL...



ABOUT US	GRANT PROGRAMS	INITIATIVES	RESOURCES	OPPORTUNITIES
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CALIFORNIA POETRY OUT LOUD COUNTY CONTACT TOOL

Send a brief message to Poetry Out Loud representatives in your county!

Name:

Email:

Select County:

Message:

[Return to Poetry Out Loud](#)

County POL Partner's Role



- Define the scope of POL in your county: at least 2 high schools should participate in the County POL Finals
- Recruit schools, teachers and students: School/Teacher Registration Form due to the CA Arts Council by Dec. 31, 2015
- If applicable, work with lead teachers to integrate local poet teachers into your POL program: California Poets in Schools (CPITS)
- Coordinate County Finals Competition
- Submit state finalist information to CA Arts Council By February 7th, 2016
- Distribute travel stipend to County Finalist and Chaperone.



A Judge's Quick Reference to Evaluation Criteria*

CRITERIA	CONSIDER
PHYSICAL PRESENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Posture• Eye Contact• Body Language
VOICE AND ARTICULATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Volume• Pace• Intonation• Rhythm• Pronunciation
DRAMATIC APPROPRIATENESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Good: style of delivery <u>subtly</u> highlights meaning of poem• Negative: affected voices and accents, distracting gestures, inappropriate tone, unnecessary emoting
EVIDENCE OF UNDERSTANDING	Student's ability to capture: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meaning• Messages• Allusions• Shifts of Tone• Other nuances
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	Student's success in meeting criteria and creating an overall impressive performance, mastery of recitation skills (*use discretion: note scaled point value)

**This tool isn't an all-inclusive description of evaluation criteria, but serves as a reminder to judges during competition of what they should be looking for in each student's performance. Judges should prepare in advance of the competition and thoroughly review the Poetry Out Loud Judge's Guide (available from the contest coordinator or at poetryoutloud.org)*

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Early November:** keep an eye out for grant agreements
- **End of December:** School & Teacher Registration Form submitted by Lead Teachers, Date/time/location of County Finals confirmed by County Coordinator
- **February 7, 2016:** County Finals competition completed and results submitted to CAC by County Coordinator
- **February 28th and 29th, 2016:** State Finals in Sacramento
- **May 2-4, 2016:** National POL Finals in Washington, DC

Successes and Strategies

- Steve Hansen, teacher and winner of the 2015 POL Hero Award from Nevada County
- Bonnie Bryson, County Coordinator from Tuolumne County
- Margaret Travers, Partner Agency staff from Ventura County

Get Involved!



credit: James Kegley