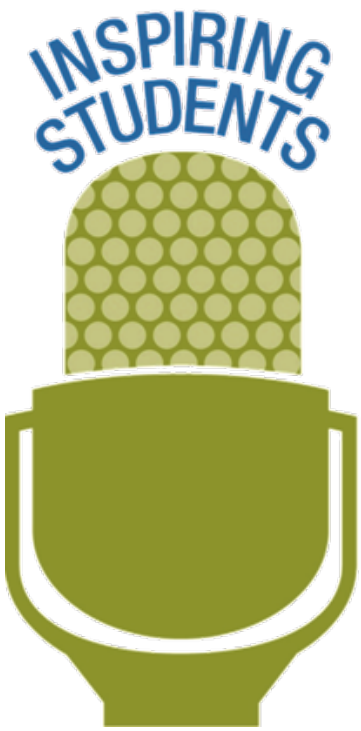


POETRY OUT LOUD

2016-2017 Program Cycle

ART WORKS.

National Endowment for the Arts
arts.gov

POETRY FOUNDATION

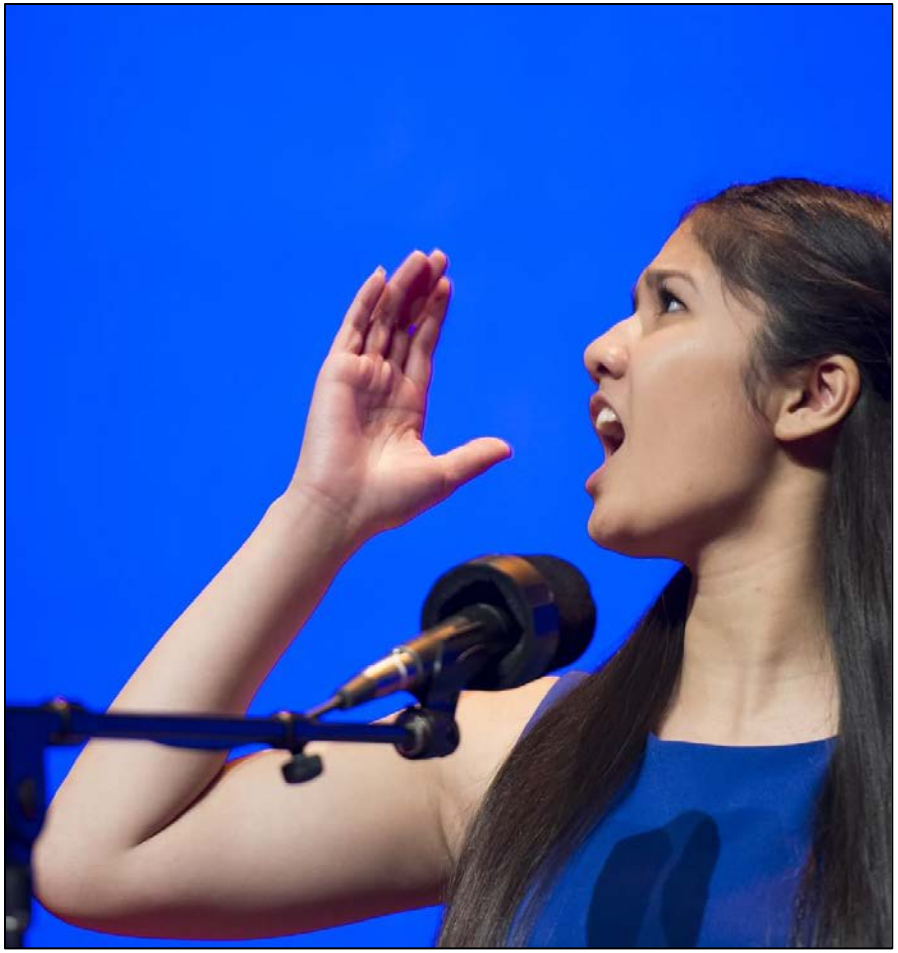
CALIFORNIA ARTS COUNCIL

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

ART WORKS.

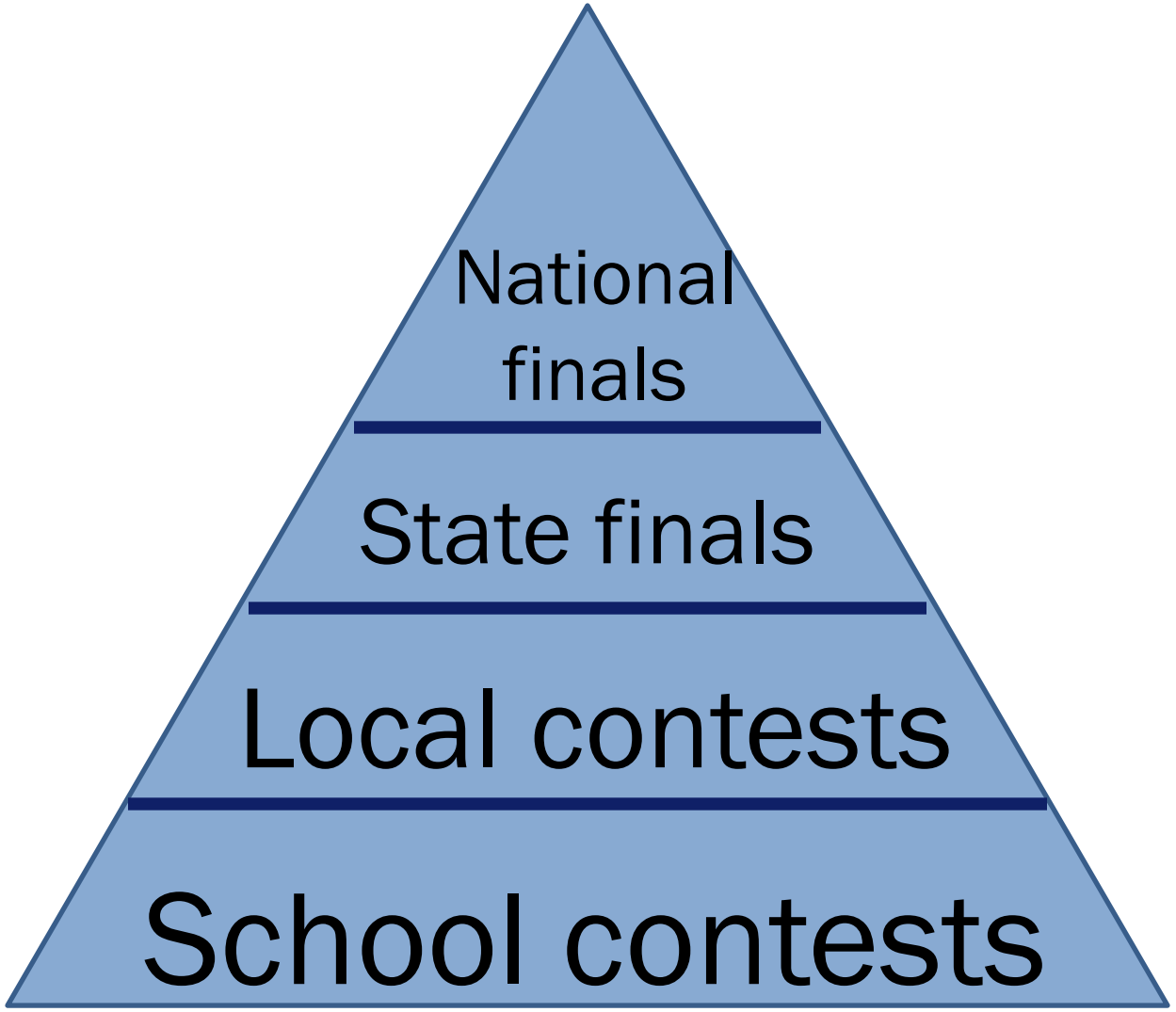
Daiana James, a junior at Benjamin Banneker Academic High School in Washington, won the District Poetry Out Loud championship. She'll compete at the national competition at George Washington

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

- 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

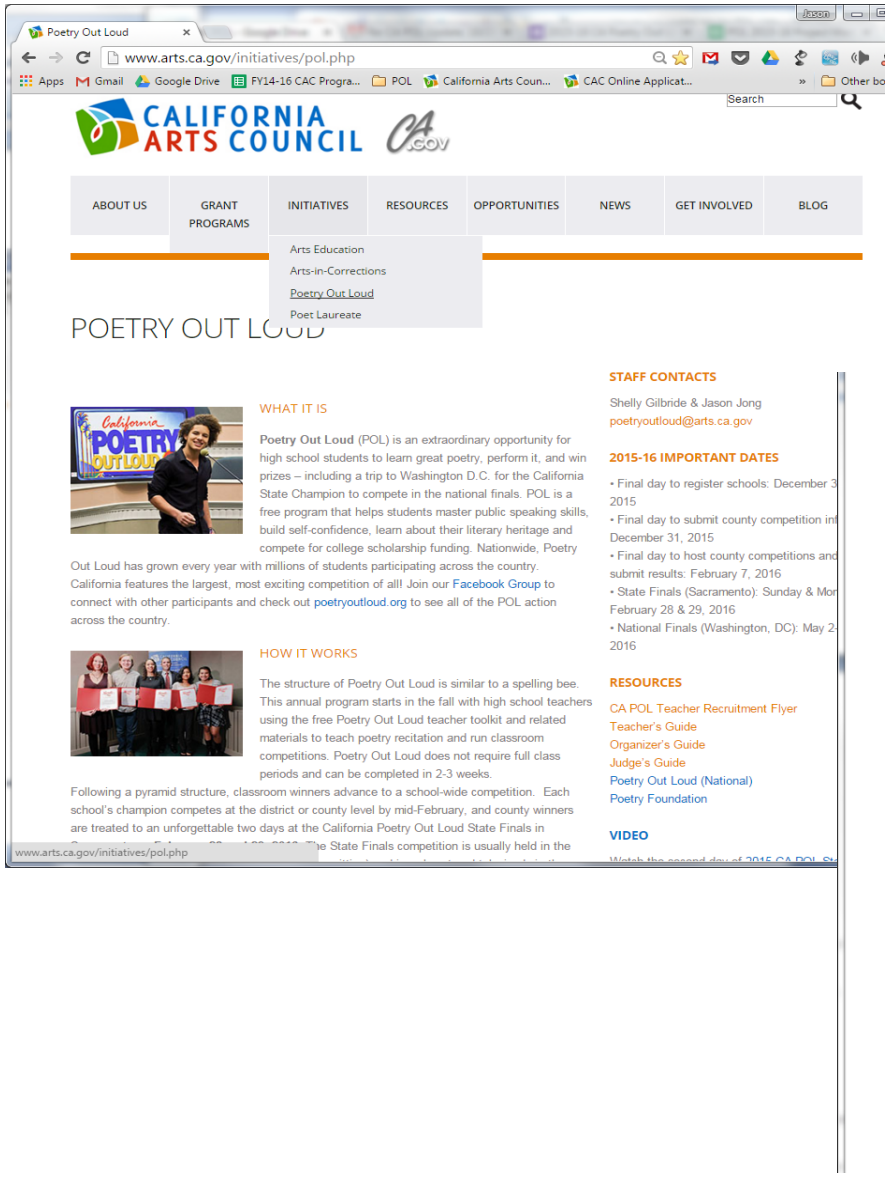
- “Find a poet” search tool
- “Find a poem” search tool
- Recitation practice checklist
- Daily “featured poet” section with biographies and poems

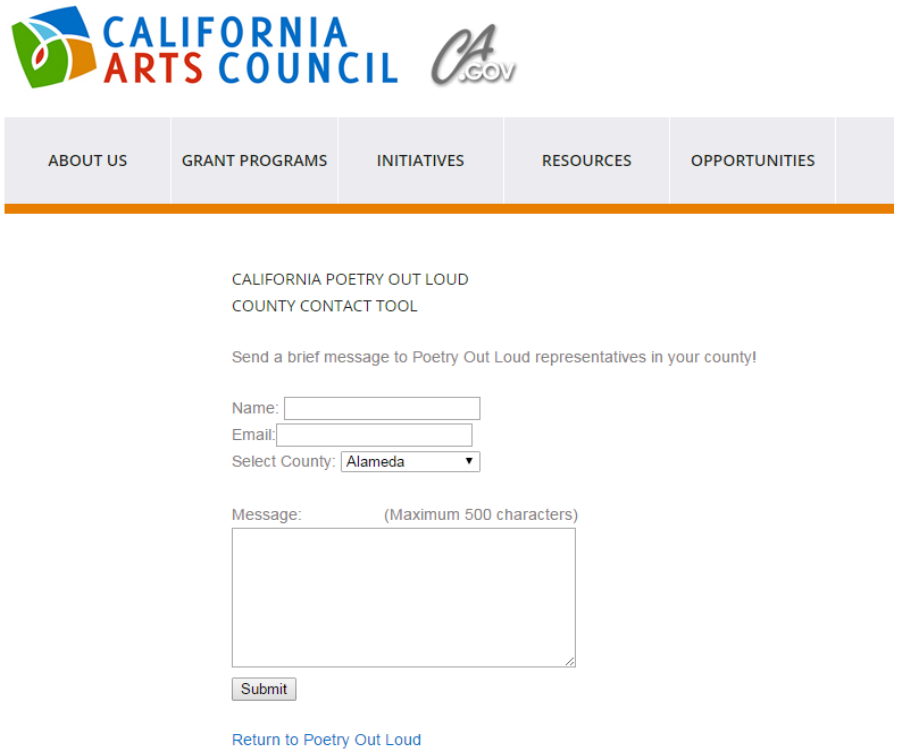
California Arts Council's Role

credit: James Kegley

- Define scope of state program: currently 39 of 58 counties
- Coordinate state program and state finals event: **MARCH 12th-13th** 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





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. 1, 2016
- If applicable, work with lead teachers to integrate local Poetry Teaching Artists into your POL program
- Coordinate County Finals Competition
- Submit state finalist information to CA Arts Council By February 22nd, 2017
- Distribute travel stipend to County Finalist and Chaperone.

POETRY OUT LOUD

A Judge's Quick Reference to Evaluation Criteria*

CRITERIA	CONSIDER
PHYSICAL PRESENCE	• Posture • Eye Contact • Body Language
VOICE AND ARTICULATION	• Volume • Pace • Intonation • Rhythm • Pronunciation
DRAMATIC APPROPRIATENESS	• Good: style of delivery subtly highlights meaning of poem • Negative: affected voices and accents, distracting gestures, inappropriate tone, unnecessary emoting
EVIDENCE OF UNDERSTANDING	Student's ability to capture: • 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

- **September 30:** POL Grant Application due
- **December 1:** School & Teacher Registration Form submitted by Lead Teachers, Date/time/location of County Finals confirmed by County Coordinator
- **February 15, 2017:** County Finals completed
- **February 22, 2017:** Results submitted to CAC by County Coordinator
- **March 12-13, 2017**: State Finals in Sacramento
- **April 24-26, 2017**: National POL Finals in Washington, DC

Successes and Strategies

- Kate Wells, teacher and winner of the 2016 POL Hero Award from El Dorado County
- Bonnie Bryson, County Coordinator from Tuolumne County
- Margaret Travers, Partner Agency staff from Ventura County

Get Involved!

credit: James Kegley