



September 2018

Dear Ohio High School Teacher,

Could you use a free way to refresh your required poetry unit and meet your teaching benchmarks at the same time? Are you in need of a new approach to engaging indifferent students? Wishing you could create a culture of poetry at your school? Interested in providing a public speaking experience for your students that deepens their grasp of language? Would you also like to demonstrate your community involvement outside the classroom? *Poetry Out Loud* (POL) will help you accomplish all of this, and more.

The Ohio Arts Council is inviting all Ohio high schools to register now for *Poetry Out Loud* National Recitation Contest, a free national program sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation, and administered in Ohio by the Ohio Arts Council. *POL* is entirely free to participating schools: we provide registered teachers with free multi-media poetry curriculum materials, training workshops and the services of a coordinator. The contest, also free, has a pyramid structure, beginning in the classroom and culminating in an exciting national competition with \$50,000 in prize money at stake. Participating students compete by selecting poems to memorize and recite from a large online anthology. Their recitations are scored in six categories using a national rubric. Last year more than 8000 students and 100 high school teachers participated in Ohio.

We are offering two free workshops, a student training workshop for school champions and a teacher training workshop. The teacher training workshop on October 13, 2018. An invitation will be sent out to participating teachers after registration. We encourage participating teachers to call or email for rsvp of attendance. CEU credits are offered. The student training workshop is on January 26, 2019, from 1-4pm, with poet and former POL coach Katie Daley. The workshop will be held at the Cleveland Public Library, Main Branch, 325 Superior Ave, Cleveland, Ohio 44114. **Attendance for**

training is strongly suggested to all student champions! Students who have attended these workshops, have made final stage at the state finals. The regional competition will take place on February 2, 2019, 3-5pm in the Learning Commons, located on the 2nd floor of the Louis Stokes Wing at the Cleveland Public Library, Main Branch, 325 Superior Ave, Cleveland, Ohio 44114. The winners from the regional competition will compete in Columbus, Ohio for the State Championships on Friday March 8, 2019.

We also are available to assist participating schools in any way that we can, as we know this process and season can be difficult to navigate. We are available to visit participating schools and give the teacher guidance in creating a successful Poetry Out Loud school competition.

POL aims to expose students to our shared literary heritage in poetry, and to improve their public speaking skills. It also helps teachers meet required NCTE and Common Core benchmarks in close reading, text analysis, and practice with complex texts, speaking, and listening. Choosing and learning a poem by heart, and then reciting it for an audience, has been a transformative experience for many students, with lasting benefits in their deeper understanding of language.

Registration for Poetry Out Loud is conveniently online at <http://www.oac.ohio.gov/poetryoutloud>. Scroll down to click on "Register." For more information about *Poetry Out Loud*, visit the national website at www.poetryoutloud.org.

Workshop registration is easy – just contact us by phone (see below) or by email at cle.pol@cpl.org.

Thank you and we hope to hear from you!

Cordially,

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