



Dear English, Creative Writing, Speech or Drama Teacher,

Are you a teacher that nurtures creativity and skill building in your students? Then we invite you to learn more about this free program, Poetry Out Loud!

What is Poetry Out Loud?

Poetry Out Loud (POL) is a national recitation contest for high school students sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation. Poetry Out Loud starts with a competition at the classroom level. One winner from every participating school district or community group advances to Erie Arts & Culture's regional contest, that winner then proceeds to the state competition in Harrisburg. The winner of the state competitions goes to the National Finals in Washington DC.

The Students Win

Poet Christopher Fry wrote, "Poetry is the language in which man explores his own amazement." Each year, students from across the country learn to amaze themselves and their teachers through the spoken word of poetry. Poetry Out Loud recognizes students' achievements in verbal expression and encourages their growth as they celebrate language. The contest also offers prizes and the opportunity for travel and networking with peers from near and far.

It's in the CORE!

Studying literature, including poetry, addresses at least three Anchor Assessments per the PA Core Standards: Speaking and Listening (SL. 9-10, SL 12-11), Reading (RL. 9-10, RL 11-12), and Language (L. 9-10, L 11-12).

How can your students participate in Poetry Out Loud?

Simply complete the *Intent to Participate form* and return it to Erie Arts & Culture by November 30th. Once we receive your registration, we'll email you a confirmation. Our regional POL coordinator will also contact you to answer questions and guide you through the process. To learn more about the national program, visit www.poetryoutloud.org

Sincerely,

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