

**FOR POETRY OUT LOUD SCHOOL CHAMPIONS**  
**WHAT TO EXPECT AND HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE REGIONAL COMPETITION**  
(Teachers, please make sure your school finalist has a copy of this.)

Congratulations on being your school's Poetry Out Loud Finalist! The following information is provided to help you prepare for the Regional Poetry Out Loud Contest.

First, your teacher will complete the online School Finalist Registration Form. *Please review the information carefully, especially the 3 poems and the order in which you will recite them. More information on this is below.*

Next, complete the Media Release Form. Please have your parent or guardian complete and sign the form immediately, then return it to your teacher.

Your Regional program partner will provide detailed information about all of the following: **School finalist and parent/guardian must arrive at the Regional Contest site at the specified time.** Please leave sufficient travel time to park and arrive at that time. Directions will be provided. A briefing, run through and sound check for regional finalists will take place between **9AM and 9:30AM.** Students will be using a standing microphone. School finalists who do not arrive by 9AM may not be able to compete.

Finalists and parent/guardian and teacher, principal, superintendent should plan to stay for a few minutes after the end of the event to be available for photographs and questions from the Press.

In selecting your poems, please remember the following important requirements:  
All students must prepare three poems. All poems must be selected from the Poetry Out Loud print or online anthology. At the regional, state and national finals, students must have three poems prepared. One must be 25 lines or shorter, and one must be written before the 20th century. The same poem may be used to meet both criteria. The order in which the poems are recited is up to the student.

Wear comfortable clothes and shoes. You will be reciting while standing center stage at a standing microphone.

You will be greeted at the door by a Poetry Out Loud staff person.

You will be escorted to the green room where you will meet all the other school finalists. Snacks, water and tea will be available for all the contestants.

In the green room, you will be lead through warm up and relaxation exercises by a theater professional. The structure and process of the contest will be explained to you.

All school finalists will be brought to the stage to familiarize themselves with the setup, and for a sound check.

PLEASE REMEMBER, during the contest it is extremely important to recite your poems clearly into the microphone. You must be heard to be judged.

**THIS IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO KNOW:** You must decide on the three poems you will have prepared to recite and the order in which you will recite them and provide this information in the on-line School Winner Registration form provided at [jerseyarts.com/pol](http://jerseyarts.com/pol). Once the form is submitted – **the poems and the order of the poems cannot be changed. If you change the poems or the order of the poems during the regional contest you will be disqualified. This is necessary because all of the poems, evaluation forms, for the jurors and the accuracy judge must be prepared in advance. If you change the poem or the order – you cannot be evaluated appropriately.**

**PROGRAM STRUCTURE:** Because of the great increase in the number of schools participating, we have the following regional contest structure update:

- All school finalists will recite a poem in round one.
- The 10 school finalists with the highest scores will recite their second poem in round two and their third poem in round three.
- The two students with the highest scores at the end of round three will be the Region 2 Champions and go on to compete in the state finals.
- Please keep this new contest structure in mind when choosing the order in which you will recite your poems.

Every school finalist competing in the Regional Contest will be recognized with a Poetry Out Loud School Finalist Certificate.

Details on judging criteria for Poetry Out Loud Contests can be found at [poetryoutloud.org](http://poetryoutloud.org).