

POETRY

What is Poetry Out Loud?

Poetry Out Loud is a national arts education program and poetry recitation competition for high school students beginning in the classroom and culminating in the National Finals in Washington, DC where over \$50,000 is awarded in scholarships and school stipends.

Participants of Poetry Out Loud select a poem from the national online anthology. They work to memorize this poem and craft a unique performance, making the poem their own and the written word come alive.

Drawing upon elements of spoken word, theater, and slam poetry, Poetry Out Loud cultivates an appreciation of poetry that goes beyond the page. Poetry Out Loud promotes the creativity of performing poetry, not just reading it.

How do students benefit?

Poetry Out Loud engages and challenges a variety of learners. Analyzing, interpreting, and performing poetry develops critical thinking and analytical skills that are helpful in other subjects.

Students are often inspired to write their own poetry and share their work with peers.

Poetry Out Loud creates lifelong lovers of poetry and creative writing. Reciting poetry fosters emotional maturity and self-confidence.

OUT LOUD 2026

HOW POL WORKS



Liam McLaughlin
2025 Arizona State Champion
Gary K. Herberger Young Scholars
Academy



Biruni Hariadi
2023 Arizona State Champion
Gary K. Herberger Young Scholars
Academy



Isabel Teran
2024 Arizona State Champion
Sahuarita High School



Oscar Manuel Landa Samano
2022 Arizona State Champion
Coconino High School



Aliyah Chutkan
2021 Arizona State Champion
Xavier College Preparatory



Sylvia Dale
2020 Arizona State Champion
Ganado High School



Edgardo Andres Aguilar
2019 Arizona State Champion
Desert View High School

1 Register your School

An educator, librarian, or club leader working with high school students registers a school or arts organization by the deadline, **October 31st, 2025**. **Note:** only one registration per school/organization will be accepted.

To register visit: <https://poetry.arizona.edu/poetry-out-loud>

2 Preparation

Students choose from a variety of published poems located in the national POL anthology. They practice recitation of their poems so that their poems are memorized, and their performances demonstrate comprehension and emotional connection. With guidance from an Arizona POL coordinator, teachers organize a school competition to be held by the end of January 2026. The national POL website features lesson plans so that teachers can easily fold POL into their curriculum.

3 The Competitions

Students must compete in each stage of competition to advance to the next. Schoolwide winners advance to regional competitions. Regional winners advance to the state competition and the winner of state goes on to represent Arizona at the National Finals.

School Competitions: January 2026

Arizona Regional Competitions: February 2026

Arizona State Finals: March 2026

National Finals in Washington, DC: April 27-29, 2026

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POETRY OUT LOUD  **20 YEARS**

in partnership with



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
POETRY CENTER

