AZ POETRY OUT LOUD

CONTEST YEAR 2027

What is Poetry Out Loud?

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.

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

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

2019 Arizona State Champion, Edgardo Aguilar,
Photo Credit: James Kegley

Biruni Hariadi
2023 Arizona State Champion
Photo Credit: James Kegley

Why Poetry Out Loud?

- Reciting and performing poetry fosters self-confidence and emotional maturity.
- Poetry Out Loud creates lifelong lovers of poetry and creative writing.
- Students are often inspired to write their own poetry and share their work with peers.
- Poetry Out Loud engages and challenges a variety of learners.
- The process of analyzing, interpreting, and performing poetry develops critical thinking and analytical skills helpful in other subjects.

How it Works

- Step 1: AZ teachers, register your school via the link https://poetry.arizona.edu/poetry-out-loud
- Step 2: Students select poems from the POL online anthology.
- Step 3: Host a competition at your school or local organization with at least two participants.*
- Step 4: Schoolwide winner advances to regionals. Regional winners advance to state finals. State champion advances to the national finals in Washington, D.C. **

*Students who can't participate in a school or local organization should contact their Poetry Out Loud State Coordinator to discuss other opportunities for inclusion in the state's official program.
**Students must participate in each stage of competition to advance to the next.

2025 and 2026
AZ State Champion
Liam McLaughlin,
Photo credit: James Kegley

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ARIZONA POETRY OUT LOUD

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA POETRY CENTER