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 2027

HOW POL WORKS

Liam McLaughlin
2025 and 2026
Arizona State Champion
Gary K. Herberger Young Scholars Academy

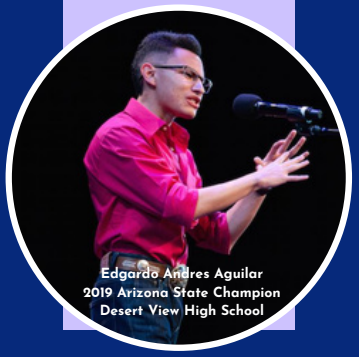
Biruni Hariadi
2023 Arizona State Champion
Gary K. Herberger Young Scholars Academy

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, 2027. **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 2027. 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 2027
Arizona Regional Competitions: February 2027
Arizona State Finals: March 2027
National Finals in Washington, DC: April 26-28, 2027

Liam McLaughlin
2025 and 2026
Arizona State Champion
Gary K. Herberger Young Scholars Academy
Photo Credit: James Kegley

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POETRY OUT LOUD®

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ARIZONA COMMISSION ON THE ARTS

ARIZONA POETRY OUT LOUD
INSPIRING STUDENTS

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA POETRY CENTER