

POETRY OUT LOUD

NATIONAL RECITATION CONTEST

Region 5 Contact:

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ALABAMA PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Phase I: Class Competitions (August-September)

1. High schools apply to participate by **Sept. 15**.
2. NEA and the Poetry Foundation provide standards-based teaching materials.
3. Students each select a poem from the website www.poetryoutloud.org.
4. Students memorize their poem and recite it in a class competition (it is recommended that they research the poem and the poet; materials are available on that website).
5. Class winners are chosen by the teacher or a judge chosen by the teacher.



Alabama Region 5

Phase II: School Competitions (October)

1. The winners from each class move forward to a school-wide competition.
2. Each student **recites two poems** for the school wide competition.
3. School judges should come from outside the school.
(NEA provides funds to pay judges \$25 each, or these funds can be used for travel expenses to the regional workshop and competition.)
4. School winners prepare for regional semi-finals. Teachers should support them from here on.

Phase III: Regional Competitions (October-November)

A. *Finding Your Voice* Workshop (see also, bottom of p. 2)

School winners and their teachers attend *Finding Your Voice*, a four-hour intensive poetry workshop to prepare students for the Regional, State and National competitions.

Region 5: Friday, October 23 at UAHuntsville. Details TBD.

B. Regional Semi-Finals at UAH, Friday, November 20.

A Chan Auditorium, UAHuntsville. Details TBD.]

1. Each student memorizes and **recites three poems** from the Poetry Out Loud anthology:
 - a. one pre- 20th century, b. one 25 lines or fewer.
2. In addition to the poems from the anthology, each student is required to write an original poem to recite in the *Original Poetry Competition*.
3. The top three winners from both the *National Poetry Out Loud* competition and the *Original Poetry* competition will move forward to the State Finals. The Huntsville Literary Association will again award \$100 for first prize in each contest, and we have asked for UAH scholarship money as well.
4. Winners will be invited to attend an intensive coaching session in January to prepare them for the State Finals.

Phase IV: State Competition (February 27, 2010)

The State Finals will be a full day event at Huntingdon College, in Montgomery. The format will be similar to the Regional Finals.

1. **Two competitions:** Students choose which of two competitions to enter:

| <i>National Poetry Out Loud</i> | <i>Original Poetry</i> |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recite poems from the anthology to compete for State Champion State Champion wins \$200 Winner’s school wins \$500 for the library. First runner-up wins \$100 Runner-up’s school wins \$200 for the library. State Champion and chaperone travel to Washington, DC for National Finals, all expenses paid (Phase V below) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students recite their own original poetry Winner gets a state award Competitors not eligible for national championship |

Phase V: National Competition (April 25-27, 2010), Washington, DC

- NEA and the Poetry Foundation pay travel expenses to Washington, DC for state champion and chaperone.
- A total of \$50,000 is awarded in scholarships during the National competition.
- The National Champion receives a \$20,000 scholarship
- Finalists receive \$5000 & \$1000 scholarships.

Finding Your Voice Workshop
UAHuntsville

This year’s workshop sessions will require teachers and students to pre-register for particular sessions and times, and we plan to start a little earlier and stay a little longer to allow more time for recitation coaching. Since recitation coaching is at a premium, each school will sign up for one 30-minute coaching slot, in advance. Attendees may sit in on all coaching sessions. Below is a rough idea of the timing of sessions.

- 8:30-9 a.m. Registration
- 9-12:15 Concurrent Sessions (locations TBA in advance)
- 12:15-1:00 Complimentary Lunch, UC Cafeteria
- 1-1:15 Video of Poetry Out Loud National Competition, UC Exhibit Hall
- 1:30-3:30 Concurrent sessions (locations TBA in advance)
- 3:30-4:00 Wrap-up, final questions, etc.

