



November 2023

*But here I am, here I am, here I remain high on each and every peak,
carefully rumbling her great underbelly, prepared to pour forth singing—*

and sing again I will, as I have always done.

—from "America, I Sing You Back" by Allison Adelle Hedge Coke

Dear Florida Partners,

I hope you had a wonderful, restful and warm Thanksgiving.

You will find reminders and additional important information in this newsletter. One important reminder is to register your school or organization by January 19th; click [here to register](#) if you haven't already. Again, please feel free to forward to your friends and colleagues who might be interested in POL or virtually introduce me to them.

Please email me any time if you have questions at sbennet3@usf.edu or stp-poetryoutloud@usf.edu. I am here to support you and your students.

Best,
Susan Bennett
Poetry Out Loud Florida Coordinator

November is National Native American Heritage Month, a time to honor and celebrate the vibrant cultures of Indigenous peoples throughout the United States. To commemorate, take some time to read some poems in the [Celebrating Native American Heritage and Culture collection on poetryoutloud.org](#) and the recent NEA blog post "[Celebrate National Native American Heritage Month Through Poetry.](#)" Enjoy!

POL PR Tips for Schools/Organizations

As we're gearing up even more into POL competition season, here are some promotional ideas that are also included in the [POL PR Toolkit](#):

- Post notices announcing the competition and champions at your school/organization and/or on your website, newsletter, student newspaper,

or social media pages. Use the Poetry Out Loud logo to celebrate your involvement

- Announce classroom winners and the school-wide competition in the daily PA broadcast, at assemblies, or on the school's YouTube channel.
- "Live Tweet" a Poetry Out Loud contest or share photos on Instagram. Remember to use the #POL24 or #IAmPoetryOutLoud hashtags.
- Arrange for a class to watch online or attend your region or state Poetry Out Loud competition.
- After the event, send the local newspaper a follow-up press release highlighting the contest, your involvement in Poetry Out Loud, and photos from your event or photos of your local champions.
- Send a letter to the editor of your local newspaper. Use the letter to showcase your school or organization's participation in Poetry Out Loud, and to discuss the benefits of taking part in a national program like this.

Free Mobile App

There is a free POL app for teachers, schools, students, and partners. With this app, students can easily find, save, and practice poems for the competition on their phones or tablets.

Available for download:

- [App Store \(iOS\)](#)
- [Google Play Store \(Android\)](#)

Important Dates

January 19, 2024

Deadline to Register School's or Organization's Participation. You can register [here](#) if you haven't already.

February 5, 2024

Deadline to Register State Finalist

March 2, 2024

Florida State Competition at University of South Florida St. Petersburg Campus, 8:30 am-2:30 pm (EST)

March 21, 2024

Deadline for state champs and chaperones to register for National Finals

Ideas for Students to Practice and to Motivate Them

Host a poetry slam

Take students to an open mic at a local coffee house

Host own poetry open mic event

Have students practice at a local community organization (for example, senior citizens)

Inspire students with music lyrics first

Help students create their own poetry using some of the poems as a model

23-24 Updated Poetry Anthology

Here is the updated [POL Anthology PDF](#) with all the eligible poems for the 2023-24 school year. Please make sure to double-check the [online anthology](#) and the [print anthology poems](#) to confirm eligibility.

23-24 POL Guide for Teachers & Organizers



Here is your [digital 2023-24 Guide for Teachers and Organizers](#). In this guide, you can find more about the contest, evaluation and criteria, tips for contestants, rules, a sample schedule, and standards.

23-24 POL Judge's Guide

Here you can access the [2023-24 POL Judge's Guide](#). Read this guide to understand what the judges will look for in your students' recitations.

Here are the changes made this year (these are also reflected in the teacher's guide):

- Clarification that mispronunciations **are not** accuracy errors.
- Name change of the criterion "Dramatic Appropriateness" to "Interpretation." This category remains the same in its description; however, we made the name change to this criterion based on feedback from the POL community and also to align ourselves with our international recitation contest counterparts who also name this category "Interpretation." We also feel this change more accurately describes the criterion and what the judges should be considering.