



# POETRY OUT LOUD

## *Tips on Using POL to Contribute to a Positive School Culture*



### **Celebrate Diverse Talents**

Poetry Out Loud offers your school another opportunity for an annual competitive and supportive showcase of skills in addition to athletics. Classroom and school-wide champions can share their recitations at school assemblies and events.



### **Involve as Many Classes as Possible**

Having multiple classrooms and grade levels participate and compete generates excitement among students. It also gives an opportunity for teachers to collaborate and share approaches to teaching.



### **Encourage and Support ELL Classes to Participate**

Poetry is an excellent tool for teaching in-depth contextual understanding of English vocabulary and practice of public speaking skills. When ELL students participate in POL it enriches the entire school culture by providing meaningful curricular-based integration and opportunity for the success of all students.



### **Invite a Local Poet or Teaching Artist**

There are many teaching tools and resources available though the POL website but having a local poet share their passion with students can elevate students' own excitement and create real world connections. Invite a poet to do a reading, lead an in-class exercise, or open with a reading at your school competition. Ask a theater educator in your school to lead exercises on public speaking.



### **Get Fired Up for Your School Competition**

Celebrate your students' achievements, hard work, and courage by making your school competition as exciting as a final athletic event. Possibilities include: reserve the auditorium, ask theater educators to help with lighting, alert the local press, make a program with student bios, create opportunities for school finalists to recite within the community, invite the public, invite high-profile community members as judges, announce the competition on the daily school PA broadcast, put the competition on the outdoor school marquee, invite band members to perform before and after the event, and more. Be creative!



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