



Alabama FY2021-2022
Program Overview
For High Schools Grades 9-12

2022 UPDATE:

- We are back with our face to face in person model, but students wanting to enter virtually may do so if their school is not participating. Registration and entries are facilitated by the Alabama State Council on the Arts.
- Regional competitions will be held live.
- To increase accessibility, schools that wish to enter their school champions virtually to the regional competition may do so. Deadlines may be earlier for virtual entries to allow coordinators to process videos and ready them for live judging.
- State finals will be held live at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival on February 21st unless CDC guidelines change. Any regional winner not able to participate live should contact the Alabama State Council on the Arts to request accommodations.
- The 2020 Social Challenge Competition will become the **Social Justice Poem Competition**.
- Regional coordinators may allow school alternates (or 2 students per school per competition) to compete in the regional competition if they are able to handle the number of students involved. Regions with a lot of schools may not be able to handle more than one student.
- Regional Coordinators may identify five students for each competition to move forward to the State finals without the restriction of only one winner per school.

PHASE I: CLASSROOM COMPETITIONS (August-September)

We hope you will consider joining Alabama's Poetry Out Loud program, as a great way to engage students as they return to your classrooms. **National Poetry Out Loud Competition:** At this level students choose one poem from the www.poetryoutloud.org website to memorize and recite for the rest of the class. **State Original Poetry Out Loud Competition:** students write, memorize, and recite their own poem. **Social Justice Poem Competition:** students write, memorize, and recite their own poem addressing any topic relevant to social justice and to the student personally. At this level the Social Justice Poem and the Original Poem may be the same poem. Students may opt to participate in one, two, or all three competitions. Schools that have at least 5 classes involving every student participating are eligible to receive a \$75.00 grant to support Poetry Out Loud activities. Each participating school will receive materials supplied by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation. Additional resources may be found on the www.poetryoutloud.org website. It is recommended that the student research the poet and/or topic and biographical information on the website. Class champions move forward to a school wide competition to identify a school champion for each of the three competitions. If only one class is participating, the class champion becomes the school champion.

PHASE II: SCHOOL COMPETITIONS (October-November), and Individual Competitions

National Poetry Out Loud Competition: At the school level students choose two poems from the www.poetryoutloud.org website to memorize and recite for the school. Students should begin to consider the requirement for specific poems by the time they reach the regional level. One poem must be pre-20th century and one poem must be 25 lines or less. Whereas this is not required at the school level, it will be required at the regional level. **State Original Poetry Out Loud Competition:** students write, memorize, and recite their own poem again. Students may revise and edit poems, but it is recommended they continue to use the poem that helped them get to this level. The **Social Justice Poem Competition:** students write, memorize, and recite their own poem addressing any topic relevant to social justice and to the student personally. At this level the Social Justice Poem and the Original Poem should not be the same poem. School Champions move forward to the Regional Competitions. *Individual participating students will compete at this level by sending virtual entries to the Alabama State Council on the Arts. Guidelines for preparing and filming regional entries must be strictly followed to be eligible (See Guidelines for filming Alabama Poetry Out Loud recitations). Individual Champions will be notified and sent to a regional site for the regional competition. Individual students may not go straight to a regional competition without competing at this level.*

PHASE III: REGIONAL COMPETITIONS (November-December)

All students are encouraged to compete live for the Regional Competition. However, individual students and schools with an accessibility issue may send virtual recitations. Guidelines for preparing and filming regional entries must be strictly followed to be eligible (*See Guidelines for filming Alabama Poetry Out Loud recitations*). Regions with 10 or more schools participating may decide to accept only one champion per school. Regions with fewer schools may opt to accept a champion and an alternate from each school. Please check with your regional coordinator for rulings concerning how many students may compete regionally. All schools are encouraged to identify alternates in case a champion is unable to participate at the regional level. **National Poetry Out Loud Competition:** At the regional level students choose three poems from the www.poetryoutloud.org website to memorize and recite for the school. Students must select one poem pre-20th century and one poem 25 lines or less. Both criteria may be met with one poem. **State Original Poetry Out Loud Competition:** students write, memorize, and recite two original poems. **Social Justice Poem Competition:** students write, memorize, and recite their own poem addressing any topic relevant to social justice and to the student personally. At this level the Social Justice Poem may not duplicate an Original Poem entry. Five finalists for each competition move forward to the State Finals. Two alternates should be identified in case a finalist drops out.

PHASE IV: STATE FINALS (February 21, 2022)

Our current plan is to hold our State Finals on Monday, February 21st at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival in Montgomery. Any regional winner not able to participate live should contact the Alabama State Council on the Arts to request accommodations. The Original Poetry Competition, the Social Justice Poem Competition and an Award Ceremony will be held in the morning, starting at 8:00 am. In the afternoon, starting at 2pm, we will hold the National Poetry Out Loud Anthology Competition and award ceremony. The state champion from the National Poetry Out Loud Anthology Competition will compete in the National Finals in Washington DC April 25th-27th, 2022.

**ALABAMA Poetry Out Loud
2020-2021 CALENDAR**

School/Organization Registrations Open	August 2 nd , 2021
Independent Student Registration Forms Open	August 2 nd , 2021
Classroom activities & class competitions	August – October, 2021
<i>Schools/Organization and Independent Students Registration Deadline</i>	<i>October 29, 2021</i>
<i>Finding Your Voice</i> , as offered and shared by teachers, regional coordinators, and Alabama State Council on the Arts	TBD by Regional coordinators
<i>School-level Competition Results Deadline</i>	<i>November 8th, 2021</i>
<i>Regional Student Entry Forms Deadline</i>	<i>November 15, 2021</i>
Regional Competitions	TBD: November 22 nd – December 17 th , 2021 with results reported to Alabama State Council on the Arts by Regional Coordinators no later than <i>December 20th</i> .
<i>State Finals Student Entry Forms</i>	<i>January 7, 2022</i>
State Final: Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Montgomery, AL	February 21, 2022
National Finals: Washington D.C	April 25-27, 2022



POETRY OUT LOUD



Guidelines for Filming Alabama's Poetry Out Loud Recitations

Requirements:

Any video not following these requirements will be disqualified.

- Each recitation requires its own separate video file.
- Each video file submitted must be filmed in one single shot, with the camera in a horizontal position, at eye level.
- No cutting, splicing or editing of the film is allowed.
- The camera must be still and in the same location for each video.
- Student must be standing*, directly facing the camera.
- The image of the student must include the torso arms and head, without any of these body parts leaving the frame at any time during the recitation.
- Student must be standing in front of a plain background, with no identifying visual representations of any kind.
- No music, graphics, titles, or computer animations.
- No other person may be visible or heard in the video.
- All poems must be memorized. No use of notes allowed while filming.
- Sound and picture must be clear.

*Students with a disability that prevents standing for the duration of a recitation may contact the competition administrator for a waiver of this requirement. Please notify us of any other accommodations needed.

File Naming Convention: Each video file should be named using the following format:

lastname_firstname_competition_order#

For example: jones_alice_anthology_3.mp4 or
 baker_jonathan_original_2.mov

Recommendations:

These are things that will increase the quality of your videos.

- To avoid frustration and the need for multiple takes, make sure you are well rehearsed and know your poem well before beginning to film. The only reason to repeat a take should be getting the lighting, sound and positioning correct. If you are not well rehearsed, it will show in all your videos.
- We recommend videos be filmed by someone else if possible.
- It is possible to do a “Selfie Video”. Find a place to prop up your tablet or phone and use the automatic shutter to begin.
- Rehearse while filming to make sure the camera is situated correctly for your image. Review the rehearsal videos to make sure gestures do not leave the image frame, or that you are shifting your weight causing your image to leave the frame. If it looks like you are looking down at the camera, adjust the height of your camera to eye level.
- Indoor filming is best to avoid outside noise or birdsong, but make sure the lighting is adequate to see contrast so that facial expressions are readable.
- Outside filming can provide excellent lighting but pick a quiet time free of people talking, children playing, automobiles driving past, or nature sounds. Listen to your video before submitting to make sure there are no distracting sounds.
- Wear solid colors and avoid bright white clothing.
- Do not have a light source directly behind you (check the video for “white out” and shadows).
- Submit your best takes. Which one makes you happiest about the way it expresses your intent. Accuracy will count, but it is not the only thing on the rubric.

Cell Phone Video Tips:

Phones can shoot all types of file sizes and frame rates. We recommend 1080p and 30 frames per second. You can shoot larger—at 4K—but that eats up a lot of space on your phone and takes longer to upload and download. To change the settings on your phone, go to Settings > Camera > 1080p at 30 fps. Please note some phone models may offer different recording options. When in doubt, enter “change camera settings” in your browser to find your phone’s make and model.

Lighting:

Try to shoot with the sun or a window in front of you, not behind you. This will keep you from becoming a dark, faceless shadow. Your camera will iris-down to accommodate for the bright sun.

TriPod:

If you have a tripod for your phone or tablet, use it. But if not you can make your own tripod for a phone by turning a paper cup upside down and cutting a notch across the middle for your phone to stand in. Books work really well to prop up phones and tablets. So do umbrellas in the center of a table. If you are filming yourself, remember to use your delayed shutter so you will have time to get back in place comfortably without having to rush.

POETRY OUT LOUD



Alabama 2021-2022

Coordinator Contacts:

<p>Region 1 Coordinator: Amber Swain Mobile Arts Council 70 North Joachim Street Ste. A Mobile, AL 36602 Office: 251-445-3244 Cell: 562-230-5535 aswain@mobilearts.org</p> <p>Region 1 territory: Baldwin, Butler, Clarke, Choctaw, Conecuh, Covington, Escambia, Marengo, Mobile, Monroe, Washington & Wilcox Counties</p>	<p>Region 3 & 4 Coordinator: Shannon McCue The Arts Council of Tuscaloosa 620 Greensboro Ave Dinah Washington Cultural Arts Center Tuscaloosa, AL 35401 205-345-9801 education@tuscarts.org</p> <p>Region 3 territory: Bibb, Dallas, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Marion, Pickens, Perry, Sumter, Tuscaloosa, Walker & Winston Counties</p> <p>Region 4 territory: Calhoun, Clay, Cleburne, Jefferson, Randolph, Shelby, St. Claire & Talladega Counties</p>
<p>Region 2 Coordinator: Kristina Allen Alabama Arts Alliance Office Address: 2449 E. 5t St., Montgomery, AL 36106 Mailing Address: 3066 Zelda Road, Box 272 Montgomery, AL 36106 E-mail: KAllen@ALArtsAlliance.org Phone: 334-269-1435</p> <p>Region 2 territory: Autauga, Barbour, Bullock, Chambers, Chilton, Coffee, Coosa, Crenshaw, Dale, Elmore, Geneva, Henry, Houston, Lee, Lowndes, Macon, Montgomery, Pike, Russell, & Tallapoosa Counties</p>	<p>Region 5 Coordinator: Allen Berry, Ph.D. Calhoun Community College P.O. Box 2216 Decatur, AL 35609 (256) 713-4826 John.Berry@calhoun.edu</p> <p>Region 5 territory: Blount, Cherokee, Colbert, Cullman, DeKalb, Etowah, Franklin, Jackson, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marshall & Morgan Counties</p>