



## December 2023

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### **POL REGISTRATION DEADLINE: January 19**

The deadline to register your school or organization is just around the corner. If you haven't done so already, click [here to register](#) by January 19<sup>th</sup>.

Again, please feel free to forward to your friends and colleagues who might be interested in POL or virtually introduce me to them. You will find reminders and additional important information in this newsletter.

I hope you have a safe and wonderful holiday season.

Please email [sbennet3@usf.edu](mailto:sbennet3@usf.edu) or [stp-poetryoutloud@usf.edu](mailto:stp-poetryoutloud@usf.edu) if you have questions.

### **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](#).

### 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)

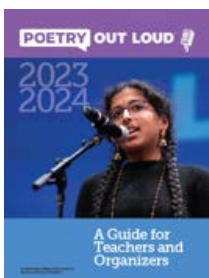
Inspire students with music lyrics first

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 remember that any poem included in the POL print anthology is eligible for recitation, even if it's not included in the online anthology. Make sure to double-check the [online anthology](#) and the [print anthology poems](#) to confirm eligibility. If you have any questions or need clarification, please email [poetryoutloud@arts.gov](mailto:poetryoutloud@arts.gov).

## 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.

### Ice

by Gail Mazur

*In the warming house, children lace their skates,  
bending, choked, over their thick jackets.*

*A Franklin stove keeps the place so cozy  
it's hard to imagine why anyone would leave,*

*clumping across the frozen beach to the river.  
December's always the same at Ware's Cove,*

*the first sheer ice, black, then white  
and deep until the city sends trucks of men*

*with wooden barriers to put up the boys'  
hockey rink. An hour of skating after school,*

*of trying wobbly figure-8's, an hour  
of distances moved backwards without falling,*

*then—twilight, the warming house steamy  
with girls pulling on boots, their chafed legs*

*aching. Outside, the hockey players keep  
playing, slamming the round black puck*

*until it's dark, until supper. At night,  
a shy girl comes to the cove with her father.*

*Although there isn't music, they glide  
arm in arm onto the blurred surface together,*

*braced like dancers. She thinks she'll never  
be so happy, for who else will find her graceful,*

*find her perfect, skate with her  
in circles outside the emptied rink forever?*

"Ice" from *Zeppo's First Wife: New and Selected Poems* by Gail Mazur. Copyright © 2005 by The University of Chicago. All rights reserved. Source: *The Common* (The University of Chicago Press, 1995)