

Slam Poetry Rules

Description: *Using a poem or a selection of poems, a speaker will convey a single theme through an expressionistic and engaging presentation that portrays the meaning of the poetry and the poems' artistic language.*

Goal: *To select and/or write poetry and then bring the meaning to life to an audience through creative expression.*

Slam Poetry Preparation Rules:

- Poem selections may come from a wide variety of sources, including original works by the competitor, published works, and/or unpublished works.
 - All words that are not self-authored must be cited parenthetically in the script and documented on the citation page; however, they need not be orally cited after they are identified in the introduction.
 - Unpublished works, including videos that are not published and posted by the author, must have written permission by the author; a copy of this permission must be included with the script. See the **Slam Poetry Script Submission Guidelines**.
- The competitor must create a completely original presentation. Competitors may not copy the added words, cutting and/or blocking of a previous speech and/or video. See the **Slam Poetry Script Submission Guidelines**.
- The selection(s) must be edited to conform to a unified theme and the time limit.
- The competitor may weave multiple sources together around a common theme.
- The competitor must create an introduction that names the title(s) and author(s) of the poem(s) used within the speech. See the **Slam Poetry Script Submission Guidelines**.
- The competitor may use an unlimited amount of added words to transition between poems, but keep the speech focused on the poetry, not the exposition or analysis of the poem(s).
- A competitor may use this selection in multiple leagues during any given competitive season. This selection may be entered in only one event per tournament (e.g., either Poetry or Open but not both).
- Once the competitor uses a selection in any competition in any venue, that competitor may not reuse any part of the speech in subsequent years of competition. The Bible is an exception to this rule.
- The competitor may enter only one speech per event.
- The competitor must provide a script and a citation page at each tournament, along with the completed **Slam Poetry Script Submission Form** Note: Electronic Script Submission is required at NITOC.

Slam Poetry Presentation Rules:

- The competitor will receive a one (1) rank penalty for failure to cite the source(s) in the introduction. This includes self-authored poems.
- Competitors may not receive any form of assistance during the delivery of the speech.
- No props, audio, or visual aids may be used.
- Only feet are permitted to touch the floor at any time.
- Vulgar, obscene, lewd, and/or graphic language and gestures are strictly prohibited.
- Singing is not permitted.
- Audience members may participate in the presentation through clapping, snapping, or other non-verbal interaction; however, the audience participation should not distract from the speaker and/or the speech.
- The speech must be memorized and delivered as written in the script.** The competitor will receive a two (2) rank penalty for the use of a written script or notes in competition.
- The timepiece must be **facing toward the competitor and counting up**.
- The maximum speaking time is five (5) minutes, including any audience reaction. Competitors may not provide any additional context, explanation, or commentary about their speech before or after delivery unless directed by tournament staff.
- Competitors will receive a one (1) rank penalty for going over time by 15 seconds or more.

Speaking Time – Five (5) Minutes