

CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF LANGUAGE TEACHERS
POETRY RECITATION CONTEST FOR MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
GRADES 7 — 12

RULES

I. There will be separate poetry recitation contests held at the same time in sixteen languages: American Sign Language, Ancient Greek, Arabic, Mandarin Chinese, ESOL/ELL, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Modern Greek, Portuguese, Polish, Russian and Spanish. In the languages of Arabic, Mandarin Chinese, French, German, Modern Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish, the following categories will apply:

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|----|---|-----------------------------|
| A. | Middle School — Level 1 (Beginning or FLEX Program) | [MS 1 — Grade 7 & 8] |
| B. | Middle School — Level 2 (Continuing Language) | [MS 2 — Grade 7 & 8] |
| C. | High School — Levels 1 - 6 | [HS1, HS2, HS3, HS4, HS5-6] |
| D. | Native Speaker — Middle School | [Native-MS] |
| E. | Native Speaker — High School | [Native-HS] |

II. In Latin, the above categories of A, B and C will apply. In Ancient Greek, only category C will apply.

III. American Sign Language (ASL):

- A. Categories and Levels
1. Hearing
 2. Hearing Impaired
 3. Four Levels within each category: One Year, Two Years, Three Years, Three Years Or More
- B. Participants may sign in either the English version or the ASL version.
- C. Criteria for judging
1. Memorization
 2. Diction (fluency of signing, clarity of signing, manner in which the signs are linked)
 3. Interpretation (accuracy of signing, effectiveness of the signs on the viewer)

IV. English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL/ESL) will include the following categories:

- A. Middle School: High-Beginner-MS, Intermediate-MS, Advanced-MS
B. High School: High-Beginner-HS, Intermediate-HS, Advanced-HS

V. The Native Speaker Category

- A. This category includes students whose home language is Arabic, Mandarin Chinese, French, Hebrew, German, Italian, Japanese, Modern Greek, Polish, Portuguese, Russian or Spanish
OR
students who have learned the world language of the contest through extended residence abroad (for example, more than one year) within the last FIVE years.
- B. These students, REGARDLESS OF THE COURSE IN WHICH THEY ARE PRESENTLY ENROLLED, MUST BE PLACED in the Native Speaker category.
- C. A school may enter up to THREE in any Native Speaker category.

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- VI. Poems for Middle School and Level HS1 will have between 10 – 20 lines. All other levels will have no less than 14 nor more than 30 lines. Students will be judged in three areas: memorization, diction, and interpretation. Latin and Ancient Greek poetry must be recited according to the classical metrics and all Latin and Ancient Greek poetry must be scanned when submitted. ASL will be judged in three areas: memorization, diction, and interpretation. Students are free to select the poem they wish to present. If a student participated last year, he/she may NOT use the same poem. Poems should be appropriate to the level of entry in content and in length. The participants will be judged by a panel, selected by the CT COLT Poetry Contest Committee. **ALL DECISIONS OF THE JUDGES ARE FINAL !**
- VII. Theatrics and props are **NOT** to be used. Interpretation should emphasize voice and words with appropriate gestures (*with the exception of ASL*). If the judges determine that a participant is presenting his/her poem with excessive dramatization and/or uses props, the participant will be disqualified.
- VIII. **THREE (3) prizes for each level of each language. In the event that the category must be split because of large enrollment, THREE (3) prizes for each room will be available. Plaques will be awarded to the middle and high schools with the largest number of winners. In addition, all participants will receive certificates of participation. In rooms with THREE (3) or fewer participants, prizes will be awarded based on the following point system: FIRST PLACE (a minimum of 27 points out of a possible 30), SECOND PLACE (a minimum of 24 points out of a possible 30) and THIRD PLACE (a minimum of 21 points out of a possible 30).**
- IX. Each school will be allowed to register ONLY ONE student per level per language.
EXCEPTION: The Native Speaker Category (Rule # 5C)
- X. PLEASE NOTE: (Item “B” is NEW)
- A. The organizational scope of the contest does not permit us to have alternatives, poem substitutions or refunds. These types of requests will NOT be honored.
- B. Only the participants and judge(s) are allowed in the room during the recitation. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

PROCEDURES

- XI. The school entry fee is \$35.00; the registration fee per student is \$7.00. All registration forms (one copy of each), poems (three copies of each on 8½ X 11 paper with the student’s name, language and level printed in the upper right corner), and fees must be postmarked by February 2, 2009. NO EXTENSIONS WILL BE GRANTED AND ANY INCOMPLETE ENTRIES WILL BE REJECTED.
- XII. If all of the above procedures are not followed, a student will not be allowed to participate. As stated above, judges and committee members have the right to disqualify any student who does not adhere to the recitation rules.
- XIII. Students, teachers and school officials should be aware that any FRAUDULENT ACTIVITY, including substitution of poem and/or student, will lead to DISQUALIFICATION of ALL participants from that school.