



A Partnership of National Endowment for the Arts and Poetry Foundation

VIRTUAL COMPETITIONS & FILMING GUIDELINES

HOW TO RUN A VIRTUAL POL COMPETITION

There are several avenues POL teachers and organizers may choose to administer their virtual POL competitions. This document provides multiple options on how to hold a virtual contest as well as filming requirements and tips for competitors. All virtual contests must abide by the evaluation criteria and rules specified in the Teacher's Guide.

RECORDING ONE-ON-ONE ON VIDEO PLATFORM

The organizer meets with each student competitor individually over a video platform (i.e. Zoom, Skype, etc.) with the accuracy judge and prompter. The student recites their poem(s) live for the organizer while each recitation is being recorded. Recordings of recitations are sent to contest judges to review and provide scores. Judges must provide scores for each criterion and review independently.

LIVE CONTEST ON VIDEO PLATFORM

The organizer holds a live POL contest over a video platform (i.e. Zoom, Skype, etc.). The contest follows as an in-person contest would. Judges submit scores for each criterion to contest organizer to be tallied; winners and runners-up announced at the end of show

VIDEO SUBMISSION CONTEST

Each student records and saves each recitation as a separate video file. Students send video(s) via email or a file sharing platform (i.e. Dropbox, We Transfer, etc.) to the POL organizer. The organizer reviews submissions to ensure the videos meet film requirements and then forwards to the judges for their review. Contest judges and the accuracy judge must provide scores for each criterion and review independently—the same as live competitions. Organizers set a deadline for judges to submit scores and then tally the scores. For video submission contests, videos must not be edited, but students may record their recitations more than once and send their best recording for each recitation.

NOTE: The Poetry Out Loud National Finals will take place virtually in Spring 2021. We will provide more information regarding dates and the structure of the event as soon as possible.

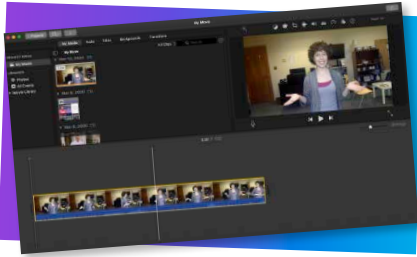
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HOW TO FILM A POL RECITATION

RECORDING OPTIONS

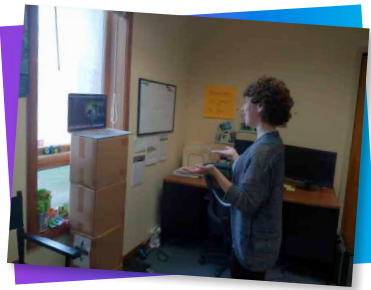


- Best Option: Computer with Webcam
WeVideo is a good option for Chromebooks, Windows Movie Maker and iMovie are already installed on PCs or Macs.
- Secondary Option: Phone
Use your camera's video feature, iMovie is also an option on iPhones

FORMAT

- Face the camera so it captures your head to mid-torso (medium shot)
- Landscape (horizontal)
- Record in a HD aspect ratio
(Use your device's best quality setting if possible)
- Leave a few empty seconds at the beginning and end of your video clip

FRAMING & COMPOSITION



- Try to stand in front of a neutral background, if possible. Try to avoid wearing clothing similar colors to the background.
- Make sure you are the only visual and audible person.

AUDIO

- Use of professional recording studios is prohibited.
- The sound and picture must be clear.

LIGHTING

- Make sure your background is not brighter than your foreground.
- Utilize natural lighting. A window is a good option.

ADDITIONAL REMINDERS

- Videos cannot be edited. Do not add music, graphics, etc.
- For video submission contexts, each recitation requires its own separate video.
- For video submission contests, check with the organizer if there is a file size limit and if there is a preferred naming convention to save your videos.
- Examples of student filmed POL recitations can be found on the POL YouTube page.

RECITATION REQUIREMENTS

- Students must begin by stating the title of the poem, poet's name, and translator, if applicable.
- A student's own editorial comments before or after the poem are not permitted.
- Poems must be recited by memory.

Review your files before submitting them. Watch through each video completely to make sure there are no technical glitches. Shoot another take if necessary.