

## **Yolo County Poetry Out Loud Video Submission Guidelines**

Students should record and upload three short videos (one of each poem in their approved recitation list) to any site where we can access them (we suggest “unlisted” YouTube links). The links should be provided to us via the Google Form at: <https://forms.gle/FZkEJBEO1VJdDPHC8>

Important: Do NOT password protect your videos. Make sure they can be accessed from the links you provide with no password (again “unlisted” YouTube links are our recommendation).

We will accept links via the Google Form until 11:59 PM on Tuesday, January 31, 2023.

Students may film their video at home, at school, at their county office, or at any other convenient location. Cameraphone video is expected.

To complete your videos you will need:

- A cameraphone or video camera;
- A person to operate the camera (who should review these instructions with you);
- An adult witness over 18 who is a parent, guardian, teacher or county POL rep (this person can also be your cameraperson or your prompter, if you wish). Your adult witness will be required to attest when you submit your links that you performed your recitations between March 12 and March 15, entirely from memory with no assistance beyond audible assists from a prompter and that your video is entirely unedited. This person needs to complete an attestation on the Google form where the links will be submitted—so they have to be with you when you film and help with the Google form submission.
- You are allowed to have a prompter with a single regular-sized sheet of paper containing the text of the poem you are reciting sitting just off camera (this is not required for this video contest, but it is allowed). You may look to this person for audible assistance while reciting, but they can give only audible cues and there will be a scoring deduction.
- You will need to upload your videos to a service that makes them available online via a URL link (we suggest “unlisted” YouTube links).

Students who feel they can record their videos at home with the assistance of their parents or other adults are allowed to do so. Students who want assistance or who feel they lack access to any of the above should reach out to [jharris@yoloarts.org](mailto:jharris@yoloarts.org) immediately so that we can find help for you in your area.

Video recordings should each include a single take. Editing or manipulating the recording in any way is not permissible. Videos that appear to be edited or manipulated will be disqualified. YoloArts’ determination in this will be final.



**Review these instructions with the person filming your video before you begin.**

- 1) Stand quietly for a few moments until the person filming confirms the camera is on you and steady.
- 2) State the title and author of your poem, as required in Poetry Out Loud guidelines, and complete your recitation.
- 3) Stand quietly for a few more moments until the person filming signals they have stopped. The judges will watch your video from the moment right before you begin and stop immediately after you finish, so you will not be judged on anything extraneous that is captured on camera.

We will ensure our panel of judges follows POL rules and guidelines in reviewing and scoring the videos. They will see the videos in three rounds.

Judges will score all three poems for every student and the winners will be determined based on total score. Winners will be announced on Wednesday, February 15, 2023.

Tips on reciting and adjudication criteria are available online at <https://www.poetryoutloud.org/competing/tips-on-reciting/>

## **Some tips on creating your video**

To be clear, we will accept and score ANY video that meets the guidelines on the previous two pages.

We encourage:

- A plain background (such as the solid painted wall of a room)
- A quiet, indoor location, ideally a smaller room. Make a test recording to make sure you can hear the audio clearly. With modern recording devices, including cameraphones, a microphone should not be needed if the student is projecting.
- Good lighting (normal daylight usually works well, so long as it is hitting the student evenly). Make sure that there isn't a strong light source behind the student (so that they do not look "silhouetted"). Don't position them in front of windows or reflective surfaces. On your test recording, also verify that the light is not TOO strong. You do not want the student's face to be "washed out".
- Your video should show the full length of your body. You will not be automatically scored down if it does not, but you will be judged on the use of your body per POL rules, so you will want to make sure we can see all of it.
- Do not "zoom" in and out while filming. Your video will look better as one steady shot.

## **Guidance for Filming Video on cameraphones**

- Check your video settings. If using a cameraphone, make sure you are shooting at a high resolution.
- Clean your lens—carefully use a microfiber cloth.
- Lock your focus, so that your cameraphone does not "search focus" as you film. Tap on your phone (on the point you want to focus on) to lock focus on Google Android devices, or hold your finger in place, which locks focus on the Apple iPhone.
- Always have two hands on the phone. Phone lenses generally have optical image stabilization built in, so they're pretty stable already. But using two hands will produce even steadier footage. You may also use a tripod if you have one.