



Stephanie Haines
Arts Education and Accessibility Manager
Indiana Arts Commission

shaines@iac.in.gov

(317) 450-9973

Poetry Ourselves Indiana Guidelines

Poetry Ourselves Indiana is a statewide original poetry competition for students in grades 9-12. Students have the option to submit a written poem OR a spoken-word poem.

Eligibility

- Any student currently enrolled in grades 9-12 in the state of Indiana can submit one poem to the competition.
- Students may only participate in one category--written or spoken.
 - If a student submits poems to both categories, the student will be contacted and asked to choose only one.
- Poems must be original and composed only by the student who is submitting it.
- Spoken-word poems must be performed by the student author.
- There are no length requirements for the poems, as long as written files are under 10MB and video files are under 1 GB.
 - If you need technical help submitting your file, please contact Stephanie Haines shaines@iac.in.gov
- There are no content or subject requirements for the poems, but the Indiana Arts Commission and the Poetry Out Loud Indiana program reserve the right to disqualify poems deemed inappropriate in subject matter or language.
- Winning poems will be shared publicly statewide and nationally, so students should be sure the content of the poem is something they want to share.
- Non-English poems are allowed but will need to be accompanied by an English translation/transcript for judging purposes.

Submission Timeline

- All poems must be submitted online by 11:59pm on February 3, 2023.
- ONLINE SUBMISSION FORM HERE: <https://forms.gle/92SG6rxDMthb6zdY6>
 - This submission form does require a google login. If you have issues or need help with this please contact Stephanie Haines at shaines@iac.in.gov or 317-450-9973
- Award recipients will be notified by email during the week of February 27 and may be asked to recite their poem during the state finals award ceremony in March 2023.
- All file submissions should be named in the following style: "Poem title_Poet name_year"
 - Ex. *One Day More_Samantha Ryan_2022*
- Video submissions:

- o Cannot be edited. Do not add music, graphics, titles, virtual backgrounds, or computer animation.
- o Must begin with the poet stating the poem title and their name.
- o Please do not give any other remarks on the video. Only the poet name, poem title, and poem recitation are needed.
- Written submissions:
 - o MUST contain the following in the document along with the poem:
 - Poem title
 - Student poet's name
 - Year poem was written

Review Process

Poems will be judged by a panel of qualified professional poets, writers, and field experts. Poems will be judged on the criteria of:

- **Creativity** - the extent to which the poem is creative and provokes thinking in its reader.
- **Poem structure** - the extent to which the poem has an intentional, consistent structure that aids in the effectiveness of the poem.
- **Poem Engagement** - the extent to which the poem conveys an idea, thought, or story through clear imagery, specific, concrete details and fresh use of language.

Awards

Award recipients in both spoken word and written categories will:

- Receive a cash prize
 - o 1st place winners receive a \$75 cash prize
 - o 2nd place winners receive a \$50 cash prize
 - o 3rd place winners receive a \$25 cash prize
- Receive Poetry Ourselves award certificates
- Be honored at the Poetry Out Loud award ceremony in March 2023
- Have their poem entered into the INverse Indiana Poetry Archive

Honorable mention award recipients will also receive a certificate of recognition and may have their poems accepted into the INverse poetry archive.