

The English-Speaking Union

Central Pennsylvania Branch

Salutation and greeting to you all!

Last year our Shakespeare Competition reciters bravely competed in Harrisburg in between snowstorms. A ray of sun between clouds!  Now it’s time to prepare for our 2015 ESU National Shakespeare Competition.  However, due to the popularity of this program, we’ve changed our plans.

Things that haven’t changed:

* It’s still free.
* It’s still open to every high school student in Central PA, from Reading to Pittsburgh
* It still leads to one student competing in the ESUUS National Shakespeare Competition in NYC

This year, however, the Central PA Branch will host Area Competitions that precede the Branch competition.  These smaller events will make room for more high school students to compete, offer closer locations for you - and will allow our Branch to recognize more students.  Here’s what we have determined so far.

**Area Competitions**

**Harrisburg Area Competition**

Monday, February 16th (President’s Day)

Gamut Theater, hosted by Harrisburg Shakespeare Festival

605 Strawberry St, Harrisburg, PA 17101

**State College Area Competition**

Monday, February 16th (President’s Day)

location to be announced

**Pittsburgh Competition**

date: late February (after the 16th, before the 27th)

location: PSU New Kensington Campus

3550 Seventh Street Road, New Kensington, PA 15068-1765

Refreshments will be offered at the conclusion of these events.

**Overall Competition**

**Central PA Branch Competition** for the winners of the above events

Friday, February 27, noon

Lock Haven University

401 N Fairview St, Lock Haven, PA 17745

This event will begin with a luncheon, free for participants, advisors, and families.

**How the competition works:**

1. Hold a Shakespeare Competition at your school. Ask students to prepare a **monologue** from Shakespeare. Hold a competition to see who delivers his or her monologue the best. Some schools hold competitions in classrooms, and then the winners compete at a school-wide competition. Other schools hold their competition without the classroom component (and some are teaming up the Shakespeare competition with a Poetry Out Loud competition (<http://www.poetryoutloud.org/about>). Your best Shakespeare monologue presenter becomes your school representative at your area competition.

ESU United States offers wonderful materials about how a student may ready him- or herself for the competition. Here are some helpful links:

* Instructions for Students:
  + <http://www.esuus.org/esu/programs/shakespeare_competition/about/documents/Instructions_for_Students:en-us.pdf>
* Suggested monologues:
  + <http://www.esuus.org/esu/programs/shakespeare_competition/about/documents/2015_Suggested_Monologues_List:en-us.pdf>
* The above, but including the actual monologues:
  + <http://www.esuus.org/esu/programs/shakespeare_competition/about/documents/2015_Suggested_Monologue_Packet:en-us.pdf>
* Judges’ advice for students
  + <http://www.esuus.org/esu/programs/shakespeare_competition/about/documents/2015_Judging_Advice_for_Students:en-us.pdf>
* Monologue scoring rubric:
  + <http://www.esuus.org/esu/programs/shakespeare_competition/about/documents/2015_Monologue_Scoring_Rubric:en-us.pdf>

1. Once you know who will represent your school, send in the **registration form attached to the email that brought this information.** You may also email online at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1aBQ-3X3wtjYR_IuBKYoBF9FDPEuukOxP7ZbDyUmkdAI/viewform> Too busy to do either? Just email [Robert.hankes@gmail.com](mailto:Robert.hankes@gmail.com) with your name and the name of the student. We’ll take care of the rest.
2. Your student representative will need to prepare a **sonnet** for the area competition (and don’t forget that monologue – that will be presented at the area competition too!). More helpful documents:

* 2015 School Winner Instructions
  + <http://www.esuus.org/esu/programs/shakespeare_competition/about/documents/Instructions_for_School_Winner:en-us.pdf>
* Suggested Sonnets
  + <http://www.esuus.org/esu/programs/shakespeare_competition/about/documents/2015_Suggested_Sonnets_List:en-us.pdf>
* Suggested Sonnets with the actual sonnets included:
  + <http://www.esuus.org/esu/programs/shakespeare_competition/about/documents/2015_Suggested_Sonnets_Packet:en-us.pdf>
* Sonnet scoring rubric:
  + <http://www.esuus.org/esu/programs/shakespeare_competition/about/documents/2015_Sonnet_Scoring_Rubric:en-us.pdf>

That’s it. Teachers, there are many more resources on the ESUUS website. Email me for directions to them, or search them out at <http://www.esuus.org/esu/programs/shakespeare_competition/about/forteachers/>

Thank you for your interest and I hope you and that special student of yours will take part in this exciting competition this winter.

Robert Hankes, President, ESU Central PA Branch

p.s.: please forward this to other English teachers and educators.