



The English-Speaking Union
National Shakespeare Competition
2016 MEMO TO TEACHERS



To: Teachers Interested in the English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition
From: Education Department, The English-Speaking Union of the United States
Date: Fall 2016

We invite your school to celebrate 400 years of the Bard by participating in the **ESU National Shakespeare Competition!** In this program, high school students nationwide read, analyze, perform and recite Shakespearean monologues and sonnets in as many as three qualifying stages: school, community (ESU Branch) and national levels. Learn more about this free, educational program online at www.shakespearecompetition.org.

For those of you who participated in the program last year, we would like to express our deep appreciation for your dedication to this program and your students. You were part of a national effort involving over 20,000 students and 2400 teachers who encouraged their students to excel at Shakespeare. We hope your school continues to participate.

If your school has not yet taken part in our Competition, we hope that you will consider offering this exciting, educational opportunity at your school this year. Your students will develop essential skills (critical thinking, close reading and public speaking) and increase their self-confidence through reading, analysis and performance of Shakespeare. You'll find your contemporary students come alive through Shakespeare's timeless works.

In order to participate in the program, your school must:

1. Sign-up with your local English-Speaking Union Branch.

- Fill out the [School Participation Form](#).
 - Confirm with your local ESU Branch Shakespeare Coordinator that your school is registered for the program.
- Note: You are not guaranteed participation in the 2016 Competition until you receive this confirmation.*

2. Review Competition materials. All the necessary materials to familiarize yourself with the Competition and encourage the participation of your students can be found in our **2015-2016 Teacher Handbook**. This handbook and other resources are available on our website at www.esuus.org. Some essentials included in it are:

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| • <i>School Competition Rules & Instructions</i> | • <i>Student Guidelines</i> |
| • <i>Sample Class Schedule & Lesson Plans</i> | • <i>Judging Materials</i> |
| • <i>Connection to National Standards</i> | • <i>Suggested Monologue and Sonnet Lists</i> |

Note: Students' monologues cannot be more than 20 lines (verse or prose) according to the **Folger Shakespeare Library editions of the plays (Simon & Schuster (2003-2013))**. These editions are available for free online at: www.folgerdigitaltexts.org.

3. Hold an in-school Shakespeare competition (where students perform monologues from Shakespeare's plays). Select one student to represent your school at the community (ESU Branch) competition.

4. Submit your school winner's information to your local ESU Branch.

- Fill out the [School Winner Entry Form](#).
- Send copies of their monologue and sonnet selections to your local ESU Branch Shakespeare Coordinator.

Prize Highlights: The winner of your community (ESU Branch) competition receives an all-expenses-paid trip to New York City to compete at the National Competition (usually at Lincoln Center). The national winner of the ESU National Shakespeare Competition receives an all-expenses-paid trip to study acting in Shakespeare's homeland, England.

Thank you for your interest in the English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition. Please contact us or your Branch with any questions. We look forward to working with you this year.