



English in Action

The English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition

To: High School Principals & Administrators Across the Country

From: Education Department, ESU

Memo to Administrators Interested in Participating in the 2019 ESU National Shakespeare Competition: Online

Dear Administrator,

The English-Speaking Union is pleased to invite you, your staff, students and school community to participate in the **English-Speaking Union (ESU) National Shakespeare Competition!**

Since 1982, the **ESU National Shakespeare Competition** has partnered with educators to make Shakespeare's work come alive. This unique, performance-based education program provides your students with multiple points of entry and engages them with rigorous material, allowing them to practice essential, college-readiness skills such as critical thinking and close reading.

In a recent poll by Teach-Plus, over 27% of teachers cited student empowerment as the most important condition affecting student learning. In the thirty-six year history of the competition, the ESU has helped educators empower nearly 350,000 students to create and convey their own unique perspectives to an audience. High school students from across the country read, analyze, perform and recite Shakespearean monologues and sonnets. They connect with like-minded peers and increase their self-confidence.

The ESU National Shakespeare Competition:

- Provides an engaging opportunity for student-centered learning.
- Includes lesson plans, judging guides and preselected monologues and sonnets packets designed especially for high school teachers and students' ease of use.
- Integrates seamlessly into existing curriculum; aligns with state and national standards.
- Facilitates collaboration across departments, competition across grade-levels and creates an opportunity for community involvement.

New for 2019 - The ESU National Shakespeare Competition: Online

This year the ESU has expanded the competition to include all students, regardless of branch affiliation. Using readily available technology like cell phone cameras and video streaming, schools without a participating local branch of the ESU can join the fun and be eligible to compete in a live, semi-finals round via video streaming. Winners of the online semi-finals will travel, all expenses paid, to New York City for the finals. Past winners have received full scholarships to attend the Young Actor's Summer School at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, full scholarships to the American Shakespeare Center Theatre Camp in Staunton, Virginia and cash prizes. To learn more about this exciting, educational program online, please visit at www.shakespearecompetition.org

The English-Speaking Union of the United States was founded in 1920, on the conviction that a shared language could bring individuals together, despite differences in nationality or background. Approaching its second century, ESU is dedicated to supporting educators and learners of English through programs such as the National Shakespeare Competition. Please visit our website at <https://www.esuus.org/esu/> for all of the details.

[Please click here to visit our ESU National Shakespeare Competition: Online FAQs for more information!](#)

Thank you for your interest in the English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition. Please contact us at shakespeare@esuus.org or call 212-818-1200 ext. 212 with any questions. We look forward to working with you this year!