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**English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition: E-Branch FAQs**

What is the English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition?

Established in 1982, this nation-wide competition is a performance-based education program that reaches over

20,000 high school students in over 1,000 schools across the United States. Students read, analyze, perform and recite Shakespearean monologues and sonnets in three qualifying stages: school, ESU branch, and national.

What is the ESU National Shakespeare Competition: E-Branch?

This addition to the program is a digital platform that allows schools not affiliated with one of our participating branches to compete in the ESU National Shakespeare Competition via the internet.

How does my school enter the ESU National Shakespeare Competition: E-Branch?

The online competition is exclusively for schools that do not have a participating branch in their geographical area or whose branch is not competing this year because of COVID. Check our directory of ESU Participating Branches to determine if there is a branch competition near you. If not, submit the ESU National Shakespeare Competition: E-Branch Participation Form. When your school has selected a winner, submit the School Winner Entry Form.

How is the ESU National Shakespeare Competition: E-Branch structured?

• More than a competition, this program is an educational experience that begins in the classroom. Free sonnet and monologue lesson plans easily integrate into existing curriculum.

• Hold a school-wide competition (see: Teacher Handbook).

• Record a video of your school winner performing a monologue and sonnet, and post it (private) to YouTube.

• Submit the School Winner Formby **FEBRUARY 1, 2023**. Include a link to your student’s video.

• ESU Education staff will pick finalists from the submitted recordings and a winner will be chosen. Please note that all procedures are subject to change due to COVID)

• The winner of the E-Branch Shakespeare competition will compete live via internet at the ESU National Shakespeare Competition.

What are the rules for the video?

• You do NOT need professional recording, lighting, editing, or sound equipment. Cell phone video is acceptable.

• The student must be clearly audible and clearly visible, from head to toe.

• No costumes, no sets, and no props of any kind. Students are not allowed to use items of clothing (i.e. shoes, hair accessories, hats, gloves, etc.) as props.

• No camera work (closeups, pans, fades) and no effects (light or sound).

• No titles or credits of any kind.

• Student should introduce themselves by name (first and last) and name the selections to be performed.

• Students may perform their selections in the order they prefer. Monologues and sonnets must be chosen from the Monologue Packet and Sonnet Packet (available on our website www.esuus.org/esu/programs/shakespeare\_competition/.

• The video should be of one continuous performance with no editing or cuts.

Where do I find all the forms and resources mentioned here?

Please visit our website at [www.esuus.org/esu/programs/shakespeare\_competition/](http://www.esuus.org/esu/programs/shakespeare_competition/).

There you will find handbooks for teachers, students, and judges, as well as the required monologues and sonnets in

easy to use packets. Please note: the handbooks will contain information for the branch competitions. Please refer to this sheet for the particulars of the Online Competition.

What does it cost to participate?

There is a fee of $75 per school to participate in the ESU National Shakespeare Competition: E-Branch. Included in this fee is a School Membership with the ESU, discounts on TLab professional development programs, ESU National Shakespeare Competition publicity materials and access to special webinars. Schools with financial need can apply for a scholarship on the application form.

Who can enter?

All 9th through 12th grade students, regardless of past participation, are eligible to participate through their schools. Only schools that *cannot* compete through a branch are allowed to compete digitally. Schools that have previously competed through a branch must continue to do so unless their branch has ceased to sponsor a competition. All contestants must have won a school-wide competition to be eligible to compete in the ESU National Shakespeare Competition: E-Branch.

What can a student perform?

Students at all levels (school-wide, Unaffiliated National Qualifier, national) are required to select their monologue and sonnet from the Monologue Packet and Sonnet Packet. Students who edit or perform selections other than those listed in these packets will be disqualified.

Deadlines: Due to COVID all dates and procedures are subject to change

**PLEASE REGISTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**

**SCHOOL WINNER FORM WITH VIDEO LINK DUE 2/1/23**

• **February 1, 2023**: School Form with video link due.

* **February 15, 2023:** Winner will be announced
* **April 24, 2023:** National finals to be held in New York City

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