



The English-Speaking Union
National Shakespeare Competition
2022-2023 School Year
Competition date: February 13, 2023
How It Works



Structure

High school students read, analyze, perform and recite Shakespearean monologues and sonnets in three qualifying stages: at the school, community (Branch) and national levels.

Timeline

Fall 2022/early Winter 2023:

The program begins in classrooms nationwide, culminating in school-wide competitions where students memorize and perform a monologue. The Teacher/Judges choose one student (from a minimum of three) to advance to the ESU Branch (Community) Competition scheduled for Monday, February 13, 2023 (location TBD), in Philadelphia, PA. Teachers are encouraged, but not required to attend. Here students perform their monologue and a Shakespeare sonnet. The top ten students advance to the Branch finals that are held the same day. They each recite a cold reading from a selection provided to determine the top 3 finalists. The first place winner advances to the National Competition (travel and accommodations paid by National) in New York to compete at Lincoln Center.

The top three Philadelphia Branch winners are required to attend a reception in Center City Philadelphia on Sunday, March 12, 2022 at 4pm to receive their scholarship checks.

Awards

Branch Awards:

The ESU Philadelphia Branch (Community) contestants receive a Certificate of Participation, a t-shirt and other gifts, as well as a Workshop for the students during the competition. The top three winners receive scholarship checks (\$1,500, \$1,000 and \$500) and medals. The First Place winner continues on to the National Competition in March/April and also gets to display the engraved trophy at their school until the following year's competition. Attendance at the March 12th reception is mandatory to receive their scholarship check.

National Awards:

First Prize: Scholarship to attend the British American Drama Academy Mid-Summer Conservatory Program. **Second Prize:** Scholarship to attend the American Shakespeare Center Theatre Camp **Third Prize:** \$1,000
Peoples Choice Award: \$1,000

Resources to support the school competition can be found on our website.

To **register** for the February 13th Competition, please visit the website at http://www.esuus.org/esu/programs/shakespeare_competition/

Questions: Judith Francis, Executive Director, The English-Speaking Union,
1221 Locust Street, Box 502, Philadelphia, PA 19107

email: philaesu@gmail.com Phone: 215-545-3619 www.esuus.org