

TAM 2026 Poetry Slam Guidelines

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- No profanity or explicit sexual language is allowed
- Open to ages 13 years and up
- Please have three poems prepared
- You must send a copy of each poem for approval
- **Please show up if you sign up!**

WHAT IS A POETRY SLAM

A poetry slam is when a group of poets get together to perform their work for each other and an audience. This will be a competition, however, so scores will be given for each performance. Each poem will be judged on a scale of 1 to 10 by a panel of judges selected from the audience. The poem itself, delivery, and overall performance will be taken into account when the score is assigned. Prizes will be awarded to the poets who place 1st, 2nd, and 3rd.

POEMS AND PERFORMANCE

- Poems can be on any subject
- Poems do not have to be original, but the poet **MUST** disclose the original author before they begin
- We ask that no work contain profanity or explicit sexual content
- No props are allowed, including grabbing/motioning at or with accessories or clothing
- Only one poem may be used in each round; repeated poems will be subject to negative marks

SENSITIVITY RULE

We at TAM strongly oppose discrimination and ask that, while you are here, you please abide by the same practices. Any participants who make disparaging remarks about any ethnic group, particular religion, culture, sexual orientation, or gender differences will be **immediately disqualified**.

THE THREE-MINUTE RULE

No performance should last longer than three minutes. A timekeeper will be present to time the performances. The time begins when the performance begins, which may be before the first word is spoken. Poets are allowed several full seconds to adjust the microphone and get themselves settled and ready, but as soon as they make a connection with the audience, the timekeeper can and may start the clock. After three minutes, there is a 10-second grace period (up to and including 3:10.00). Starting at 3:10.01, a penalty is automatically deducted from each poet's overall score at .5 points for each additional 10 seconds.

**EMAIL POETRYSLAM@THEARTMUSEUM.ORG TO SECURE YOUR SPOT
ENTRY IS FREE FOR PARTICIPATING POETS**