



2006 National Shakespeare Competition

Instructions for the School Competition

The English-Speaking Union of the United States

The purpose of the Competition is to develop students' understanding of Shakespeare and to help them communicate that understanding to an audience. Participants should be encouraged to bring Shakespeare to life in their own way and to express his words with feeling, clarity, and a full sense of their meaning and intent. Gesture and movement should be natural and not exaggerated.

We hope that by offering the Shakespeare Competition in your school, the program will benefit entire classes rather than become an after-school activity in which only a few students participate. From our past experiences, we have learned that school competitions held in a general assembly generate the most enthusiasm.

The following are rules to which each school competition must adhere:

- In order to qualify for The English-Speaking Union's Branch Competition, a school must first hold its own competition involving no fewer than 3 students.
- Students must be in the 10th, 11th, or 12th grade and reside permanently in the United States to be eligible for the Competition. Contestants cannot have acted for pay on television, the stage, or in film during the 2005-2006 school year.
- Each student must select, memorize, and present a monologue. It is strongly recommended that students be familiar with the play from which the speech is taken.
- Students must download their monologue from the text of *The Nameless Shakespeare*: www.library.northwestern.edu/shakespeare and limit it to **20 lines (verse and prose)**. Students performing longer monologues will be disqualified.*
- Students should speak naturally. We urge them to use their own voice rather than affect a British accent.
- Students should not wear costumes or use props of any kind; including chairs, hair and hair clips, jewelry, hats, shoes or any other items of clothing.
- Prompting, if necessary, is allowed.
- The competition should be judged by a panel of at least three individuals, to be drawn from teachers, actors, directors, or other people in the community who are both interested in and knowledgeable about Shakespeare.
- The winner of the school contest must also memorize and perform a sonnet for the ESU Branch Competition.
- For students with documented hearing, learning, physical, and/or visual disabilities, appropriate arrangements will be made for the Branch Competition. You should advise the local English-Speaking Union of any such disabilities prior to the Branch Competition.

*Please note that the list of 2006 Suggested Monologues strictly adheres to this rule.