



The Cincinnati Branch  
of the  
**English-Speaking Union**  
The Shakespeare Competition Committee



To: Competition Participant  
From: ESU Shakespeare Committee  
Re: Shakespeare Competition  
Date: November 21, 2017

Thank you for your interest and commitment to the Competition and your students! This memorandum is available for use by schools that have entered the 2018 Shakespeare Competition sponsored by the Cincinnati Branch of the English-Speaking Union. Please read it completely.

This document contains:

- 1) Instructions for the school competition;
- 2) Links to the National ESU approved list of monologues from each of the plays in the Canon. Some of your students may be participating in other Shakespeare related competitions. Therefore, the entire Canon is open.
- 3) A link to Shakespeare sonnets. (We are also allowing you to choose which sonnet you want to use.)
- 4) Guidelines for students, teachers, and judges;
- 5) Sample judges' evaluation sheets;
- 6) School result sheet. (Returned via on-line form or mailed to the Shakespeare Chairs)

### **Chronology of Events and Requirements:**

#### **1. The competition within your school:**

One memorized monologue and one memorized sonnet. **Monologue must be limited to 20 lines (verse or prose).** This is strictly enforced by the National Shakespeare Competition and it is why we send you to the list approved by National ESU.

**The "School Results Sheet" with the names of the winner and runner-up from your school should be returned via online form (<http://esu-cincinnati.org/results.html>) or by mail to: Janice Flanagan/Bob Amott, 1074 Jackson Rd., Park Hills KY, by February 5, 2018 IF YOUR SCHOOL HAS A PROBLEM WITH THAT DEADLINE PLEASE LET US KNOW.**

#### **2. Semi finals:**

**Saturday, February 24, 2018 at 9 a.m. Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, 962 Mt. Adams Circle, Cincinnati, OH 45202.** One memorized monologue and one memorized sonnet. Six semifinalists will be chosen.

#### **3. Finals:**

**Saturday, March 3rd at 11 am. Cincinnati Shakespeare Company, 1195 Elm St., Cincinnati, OH 45202.** **Be aware this is a new address.** The same memorized monologue and memorized sonnet performed at semi-finals must be used. *Also* there will be one sight reading chosen that day.

All six finalists will receive awards:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize. \$1000 scholarship. Represent Cincinnati ESU branch at National Competition in New York City late April 2018. Actual dates TBA.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize. \$500.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize. \$250.
- Three runner-ups. Each to receive a collection of Shakespeare related DVD's.

Teachers of top three winners also receive awards:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize. \$400
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize. \$200
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize. \$150

#### **4. National Competition:**

The National Competition usually takes place in New York City on the Monday closest to Shakespeare's birthday (celebrated on April 23rd). Generally students perform on a Monday in New York City after arriving early afternoon on Sunday, the day before the National Competition. They then leave on Tuesday, the morning after the Competition. Contestants are expected to fully participate in all ESU organized events surrounding the National Competition. (Costs of flight and housing paid by National ESU) Students are to perform a memorized monologue and memorized sonnet. More extensive instructions will be given to the winner at the Cincinnati finals.

For additional Information contact:

Janice Flanagan & Bob Amott (859)-620-1885 (leave a message) or e-mail us at

[Shakespeare@esu-cincinnati.org](mailto:Shakespeare@esu-cincinnati.org)

Web Site: <http://www.esu-cincinnati.org/shakespeare.htm>

**Note:** This letter, including an interactive "School Results Form" and a list of participating schools will be available at our website at the close of registration.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SCHOOL COMPETITION

### General

The purpose of the competition is to interest today's students in Shakespeare, his dramatic and poetic art, his universality, and his use of the English language. Students should be encouraged to bring Shakespeare to life and to express his words with feeling and comprehension. Please see the following link for the **Teacher Handbook**. [ESU National Teacher Handbook](#)

Gesture and movement should be natural. Students should speak naturally. We advise them to use their own voice and not affect an English accent. They should be advised to project and to speak with the clarity necessary to communicate with an audience. They should not wear costumes, **nor should they have props of any kind, including chairs, jewelry, items of clothing and hair/hair clips.** Prompting is permitted. Please see the following link for the **Student's Handbook**, which is new this year. [ESU National Student Handbook](#)

Each student should memorize and enact one speech from the list of suggested monologues provided by the National ESU which can be found here...

[2018 Monologues List](#)

Once you and your student settle on a monologue you must use the text provided by the Folger Digital Texts Website - <http://www.folgerdigitaltexts.org/>.

Selections must come from the National ESU Suggested Monologues list only! It is strongly recommended that the student be familiar with the play from which the speech is taken.

The teacher also should require recitation of a sonnet in the school competition as the school winner will be required to recite a sonnet for the ESU - semifinals. A list of the suggested Sonnets from the National ESU-Shakespeare Competition can be found here...

[2018 Sonnet Packet](#).

The introduction to the monologue should be limited to two sentences. The student should identify the selection. A second sentence setting the piece in the play may be added but is not required.

# 2018 SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION

## EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE

The competition should be judged by a panel of three to five judges, which may include teachers, actors, directors, parents, or others in the community who are interested in and knowledgeable about Shakespeare. Sample judging criteria are enclosed. Only one student from each school may be entered in the semifinals, but a runner-up should be selected in the event that the school winner is unable to participate. (PLEASE NOTE: PREVIOUS YEARS' CINCINNATI WINNER CANNOT PARTICIPATE AGAIN IN THE LOCAL CINCINNATI COMPETITION. OTHER RUNNERS UP MAY COMPETE.)

**The "School Results Sheet" with the names of the winner and runner-up from your school should be returned via online form (<http://esu-cincinnati.org/results.html>) or by mail to: Janice Flanagan/Bob Amott, 1074 Jackson Rd., Park Hills KY, BY February 5, 2018. IF YOUR SCHOOL HAS A PROBLEM WITH THAT DEADLINE PLEASE LET US KNOW.**

## MONOLOGUES AND SONNET SELECTIONS FOR THE SEMIFINAL AND FINAL COMPETITIONS

Students are to memorize one speech from the list of suggested monologues provided by the National ESU Shakespeare Competition Committee... 2018 Monologues List

If you are unable to download, please leave a message at 859-620-1885 and we will mail them to you.

Once you and your student settle on your readings you must use the text provided by the Folger Digital Texts Website - <http://www.folgerdigitaltexts.org/>.

**SONNET NOTE:** In past years, movement during the sonnet had been discouraged. The rules of The National Shakespeare Competition have changed to allow competitors to use movement and gesture if they feel it will enhance delivery of the sonnet. The suggested list of sonnets with text can be found at: [2018 Sonnets Packet](#)

### NOTE TO TEACHERS, STUDENTS AND JUDGES

**Students should identify their selections before they begin their presentation. Any introduction should be limited to two sentences. The pieces may be performed in any order.**

**Monologue** - The monologue, taken from a play, is spoken by a character. By definition, it should be acted. The student should convey the personality of the character and the action of the scene through the use of voice and body. Overacting should be avoided.

# 2018 SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION

## GUIDELINES FOR JUDGES

Judges should consider the following aspects of the performance:

### 1. Understanding of content

- Convincing characterization
- Ability to make emotional transitions as needed
- Emotional level appropriate to speech

### 2. Use of voice

- Diction
- Emphasis
- Timing and rhythm

### 3. Use of body

Does the performer embody the character and the situation through effective use of:

- Movement
- Facial expression
- Gesture

Please note:

- The monologue and sonnet are equally weighted.
- Understanding is primary to Expression & Communication  
(i.e. Understanding =60%, Expression & Communication = 40%)

# 2018 SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION

## JUDGE'S RATING SHEET

Contestant # \_\_\_\_\_

The Monologue and Sonnet are equally weighted as two parts of a whole performance.  
Students are expected to show evidence of the following criteria. SCALE: 1 = LOW to 4 = HIGH.

THE DRAMATIC MONOLOGUE Character: _____ Play: _____	SONNET Sonnet #: _____
<b>UNDERSTANDING</b>	<b>UNDERSTANDING</b>
<b>MEANING:</b> understands the speech and its context in the play.  <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; width: 100%;"> <span>1</span> <span>2</span> <span>3</span> <span>4</span> </div>	<b>MEANING:</b> understands the sonnet's content (any messages, allusions, ironies, etc.)  <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; width: 100%;"> <span>1</span> <span>2</span> <span>3</span> <span>4</span> </div>
<b>LANGUAGE:</b> understands Shakespeare's use of language in the monologue.  <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; width: 100%;"> <span>1</span> <span>2</span> <span>3</span> <span>4</span> </div>	<b>LANGUAGE:</b> understands the sonnet's literary and poetic elements (rhythm, imagery, antithesis, etc.)  <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; width: 100%;"> <span>1</span> <span>2</span> <span>3</span> <span>4</span> </div>
<b>CHARACTER:</b> an accurate portrayal of character point of view, status, and emotion  <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; width: 100%;"> <span>1</span> <span>2</span> <span>3</span> <span>4</span> </div>	
<b>EXPRESSION &amp; COMMUNICATION</b>	<b>EXPRESSION &amp; COMMUNICATION</b>
<b>VOCAL:</b> clearly, naturally spoken at an effective volume and pace; reflects the character  <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; width: 100%;"> <span>1</span> <span>2</span> <span>3</span> <span>4</span> </div>	<b>VOCAL:</b> clearly and naturally spoken at an effective volume, attuned to the poetic elements  <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; width: 100%;"> <span>1</span> <span>2</span> <span>3</span> <span>4</span> </div>
<b>PHYSICAL:</b> clear, appropriate movement expressing the character and his/her intentions  <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; width: 100%;"> <span>1</span> <span>2</span> <span>3</span> <span>4</span> </div>	<b>PHYSICAL:</b> an economy of movement that subtly enhances the sonnet  <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; width: 100%;"> <span>1</span> <span>2</span> <span>3</span> <span>4</span> </div>
<b>OWNERSHIP:</b> confident, poised, energized, fully in character, captivates the audience.  <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; width: 100%;"> <span>1</span> <span>2</span> <span>3</span> <span>4</span> </div>	<b>OWNERSHIP:</b> confident, poised, energized, fully committed to sonnet, captivates the audience  <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; width: 100%;"> <span>1</span> <span>2</span> <span>3</span> <span>4</span> </div>
<b>MONOLOGUE SCORE:</b>	<b>SONNET SCORE:</b>
<b>NOTES/Comments:</b>	<b>NOTES/Comments:</b>

**Please Note: In past years, movement during the sonnet had been discouraged. The rules of The National Shakespeare Competition have changed to allow competitors to use movement and gesture if they feel it will enhance delivery of the sonnet.**

# 2018 SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION

## SCHOOL RESULT SHEET

(Please print or type)

An interactive version of this form is also online at: <http://www.esu-cincinnati.org/results.html> **NOTE: ALL INFORMATION RE THE MONOLOGUE AND SONNET MUST BE COMPLETED TO BE ACCEPTED.**

Name of school: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of winner: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Monologue selection for ESU Competition:

Play: \_\_\_\_\_ Character: \_\_\_\_\_ Act/Scene: \_\_\_\_\_ Lines: \_\_\_\_\_

Sonnet selection for ESU Competition: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of runner-up:

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of teacher in charge of competition: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Competition: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of students in competition: 9<sup>th</sup> Grade: \_\_\_ 10<sup>th</sup> Grade: \_\_\_ 11<sup>th</sup> Grade: \_\_\_ 12<sup>th</sup> Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Time of day competition held: \_\_\_\_\_

Setting for the competition: \_\_\_\_\_

Was it a held as a separate event, an assembly or during a class: \_\_\_\_\_

Number in audience: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of judges: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of teachers: \_\_\_\_\_

Others: (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

**TO BE RETURNED BY FEBRUARY 3, 2018**

IF THERE IS A PROBLEM WITH THIS DEADLINE, PLEASE CONTACT :

Janice Flanagan & Bob Amott (859)-620-1885