



## 2010 ESU National Shakespeare Competition

# Conditions of Branch Participation

The English-Speaking Union of the United States

In order for a Branch of the English-Speaking Union to participate in the National Shakespeare Competition, its Branch competition must meet the criteria listed below. Only those Branches whose competitions meet these criteria will be eligible to send contestants to the National Competition.

### BRANCH ELIGIBILITY:

- The competition must be open to public high schools in the area the Branch targets for the project, and may be open to independent and parochial schools, and home-schooled groups.
- The school competitions are open to students enrolled in the 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grades.
- A minimum of six schools must each agree to hold an internal competition from which a winner will be selected to go on to the Branch semi-final and/or final stage. (Exceptions can be made for smaller communities, but requests must be approved by National Headquarters.) Each school competition must involve a minimum of three students. Home-schooled participants must also emerge from a competition of three or more students.
- All stages of the competition must be judged by a panel of at least three individuals. For the Branch Competition, a substitute judge should be considered in case one member of the panel cancels unexpectedly. We also recommend that a Branch representative be present during the judges' deliberations.
- Branches must agree to hold their competitions and notify National Headquarters of the results no later than **March 8, 2010**. The winner of the 2010 ESU Branch Competition is eligible to participate in the 2010 National Competition. **It is recommended that Branches not allow the previous years' winners to compete again.** In this way, you give others the chance to win your local competition, and then come to New York to take part in the National Competition.

Branch Competitions must also adhere to these rules:

- Students cannot wear costumes or use props of any kind; including chairs, jewelry, items of clothing, and hair/hair clips.
- Students should speak naturally. We urge them to use their own voice rather than affect a British accent.
- Students must perform **two pieces at the Branch Competition**: a monologue of **no more than 20 lines (verse and prose)**, and a sonnet from Shakespeare's 154 sonnet cycle. Enclosed is a list of monologues, which may be sent to the schools, either as a suggestion or a requirement. **Please be aware that for the National Competition we adhere strictly to the 20-line rule.**
- Prompting, if necessary, is allowed.

## CONTESTANT ELIGIBILITY:

- Contestants must be enrolled in the 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grade.
- Contestants cannot act for pay on television, the stage, or in film during the 2009-2010 school year.

Contestants should be available to represent their Branch at the National Competition **April 24-27, 2010**. The ESU National Competition experience involves preparation for the semi-finals and finals throughout the weekend prior to the competition, as well as exclusive workshops, an opportunity to interact with Branch winners from across the country, and sightseeing. If, for any reason, a Branch winner is unable to participate on these dates, that Branch may elect to award the weekend experience prize to the runner-up.

Please note that appropriate arrangements will be made for students with documented hearing, learning, physical, and/or visual disabilities. Notification of any such disability should be made to National Headquarters by March 8, 2010 when the Branch submits the name of its local winner.

At the National Competition semi-finals, all participants will be required to present one monologue and one sonnet, from memory. Please note that in no case may the monologue exceed **20 lines (verse and prose)**. Students who exceed the twenty line limit will be **disqualified**. Those students selected as finalists at the ESU National Competition will be asked to do a cold reading in addition to their monologue and sonnet.

The winner of the ESU National Shakespeare Competition will receive a scholarship for summer study in Great Britain.