



English in Action

The English-Speaking Union
National Shakespeare Competition

English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition: Online FAQs

What is the English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition?

Established in 1982, this nation-wide competition is a performance-based education program that reaches over 20,000 high school students in over 1,000 schools across the United States. Students read, analyze, perform and recite Shakespearean monologues and sonnets in three qualifying stages: school, ESU branch, and national.

What is the ESU National Shakespeare Competition: Online?

This addition to the program is a digital platform that allows schools not affiliated with one of our participating branches to compete in the ESU National Shakespeare Competition via the internet.

How does my school enter the ESU National Shakespeare Competition: Online?

The online competition is exclusively for schools that don't have a participating branch in their geographical area. Check our directory of ESU [Participating Branches](#) to determine if there is a branch competition near you. If not, submit the [ESU National Shakespeare Competition: Online Participation Form](#) and begin your competition. When your school has selected a winner, submit the [School Winner Entry Form](#).

How is the ESU National Shakespeare Competition: Online structured?

- More than a competition, this program is an educational experience that begins in the classroom. Free sonnet and monologue lesson plans easily integrate into existing curriculum.
- Submit an [Online Participation Form](#) by **December 31, 2018**.
- Hold a school-wide competition (see: Teacher Handbook).
- Record a video of your school winner performing a monologue and sonnet, and post it to YouTube.
- Submit the [School Winner Entry Form](#) by **January 25, 2019**. Include a link to your student's video.
- ESU Education staff will pick 7 to 10 finalists from the video submissions.
- Finalists will perform live via video chat for a panel of judges comprised of actors, directors and educators with expertise in Shakespeare.
- The winner of the online Shakespeare competition will receive an all-expenses paid trip to compete live, on stage in New York City, at the ESU National Shakespeare Competition.

What are the rules for the video?

- You do NOT need professional recording, lighting, editing, or sound equipment. Cell phone video is acceptable.
- The student must be clearly audible and clearly visible, from head to toe.
- No costumes, no sets, and no props of any kind. Students are not allowed to use items of clothing (i.e. shoes, hair accessories, hats, gloves, etc.) as props.
- No camera work (closeups, pans, fades) and no effects (light or sound).
- No titles or credits of any kind.
- Student should introduce themselves by name (first and last) and name the selections to be performed.
- Students may perform their selections in the order they prefer. Monologues and sonnets must be chosen from the [2019 Monologue Packet](#) and [2019 Sonnet Packet](#).
- The video should be of one continuous performance with no editing or cuts.

What does it cost to participate?

There is a fee of \$75 per school to participate in the ESU National Shakespeare Competition: Online. Included in this fee is a School Membership with the ESU, discounts on [TLab professional development programs](#), ESU National Shakespeare Competition publicity materials and access to special webinars. Schools with financial need can apply for a scholarship on the application form.

Who can enter?

All 9th through 12th grade students, regardless of past participation, are eligible to participate through their schools. Only schools that *cannot* compete through a branch are allowed to compete digitally. Schools that have previously competed through a branch must continue to do so unless their branch has ceased to sponsor a competition. All contestants must have won a school-wide competition to be eligible for the online competition.

What can a student perform?

Students at all levels (school-wide, e-Shakespeare, national) are required to select their monologue and sonnet from the [2019 Monologue Packet](#) and [2019 Sonnet Packet](#). Students who edit or perform selections other than those listed in these packets will be disqualified.

Deadlines:

- **December 31, 2018:** School Participation Form due.
- **January 25, 2019:** School Winner Entry Form with video link due.
- **Early February 2019:** Online finalists selected and notified.
- **Week of February 11, 2019** (final date TBD): ESU NSC: Online final via video chat.
- **March 11, 2019:** Travel and Accommodation Arrangements Form due (travel to New York City must be booked by March 11).
- **April 15, 2019:** Deadline to request reimbursement for contestant transportation to New York.
 - Contestant transportation is fully included as a part of the online competition first prize.
 - Contestant will complete the 2019 Travel Reimbursement Form and return it to ESU National. ESU National will reimburse the full cost of transportation to the purchaser.
- **April 15, 2019:** Reserve passes to the ESU National Shakespeare Competition tentatively scheduled for **Monday, April 30, 2019**.
 - Two free passes for teachers per student.
 - All other passes (families, guests, etc.) are \$25.
 - Passes are NOT be available on the day of the competition. Please arrange for your pass in advance, and advise family members or guests of your contestant to do the same.