



Dear 2016 *Poetry Out Loud* School Champion,

**Congratulations** on being selected to represent your high school at your regional semifinal contest! **Your school's semifinal date and place is on the Ohio POL Semifinal assignments list.** The top scoring contestants at the three semifinal contests will be designated as state finalists and invited to compete in the *Poetry Out Loud* State Finals in Columbus on Saturday, March 19, 2016. If you haven't already, **please choose a third poem within the POL guidelines**, fill out the **School Champion form**, and **return it to us by Monday, February 8th.** You will need that third poem if you are chosen as a state finalist!

To help you prepare to compete in your semifinal, you are cordially **invited to attend a free School Champions Workshop**, led by an experienced performance poet, along with Ohio Arts Council *POL* staff. You'll leave with useful performance tips and feedback on your recitations, which you'll get to practice at the workshop. Choose one of these two events:

The **Cleveland Workshop** will be held on **Saturday, February 20**, 2016, at the Cleveland Public Library, Main Branch, 325 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, 44114.

The **Columbus Workshop** will be held on **Sunday, February 21**, 2016, at the Riffe Gallery, 77 S. High Street, Columbus, 43215. The Riffe Gallery is across the street from the Statehouse.

**Both workshops are from 1:30 – 4:30 pm**, and will include refreshments. **Please RSVP** to [pol.contractor@oac.state.oh.us](mailto:pol.contractor@oac.state.oh.us). We hope you can come!

Please **return your School Champion form to Katie Swett, Poetry Out Loud project coordinator** for Ohio, via email at [pol.contractor@oac.state.oh.us](mailto:pol.contractor@oac.state.oh.us), fax to 614-466-4494 or mail it to:

*Poetry Out Loud*, Ohio Arts Council  
Rhodes Tower, 30 E. Broad Street, 33<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Columbus OH 43215

And please contact Katie anytime with questions, at the email address above, or office phone 614-728-4481, cell 614-581-5840. She's here to help. Thank you!