

# Spoken Word

## Rules and Waiver

- A. Eligibility
  - a. Participants must be a full-time student enrolled at UCONN or a high school in Fairfield County.
- B. Topic
  - a. Without stifling creativity, poems should have a message of positivity and the progression from struggles, thereof. The theme of the Couch Conversation is “1619 and Beyond”.
- C. Original Work
  - a. Each participant must perform the work he/she created.
- D. Sampling
  - a. It is acceptable for a poet to incorporate, imitate, or otherwise “play on” the words, lyrics, or tune of someone else (commonly called “sampling”) in their own work. However, if the poet is simply riffing off another’s words, the poet should expect the judging to reflect the sampling.
- E. No Props
  - a. Generally, poets will be allowed to use their given environment and the accouterments it offers – microphones, mic stands, the stage itself, chairs on stage, a table or bar top, the aisle – as long as these accouterments are available to other competitors as well.
    - i. *Accidental Props.* The rule concerning props is not intended to squelch the spontaneity, unpredictability, or on-the-fly choreography that people enjoy about spoken word competitions; its intent is to keep the focus on the words rather than objects.
    - Intentional Props.* Participants who use props in a poem appears to be more calculating and the result of a specific intent to enhance, illustrate, underscore, or otherwise augment the words of the poem will be negatively judged accordingly.
- F. No Music
  - a. No musical instruments or pre-recorded music. Participants may use music created with their own body.
- G. No Costumes
  - a. If a participant wears something all day, and it is a part of their regular wardrobe, they can wear it when performing their poem. Caution: if a

participant directs attention to the article of clothing, or point directly at it, it will become a prop, and will be breaking the prop rule. Thus, participants can't change into a special outfit for a specific poem. However, if one wears a black hat every day and they want to write a poem about wearing a black hat, the participant will be allowed to leave it on during the performance.

#### H. Three Minute Rule

- a. Performances will be timed by a timekeeper. **No performance should last longer than three minutes.** The time begins when the performance begins, which may well be before the first utterance is made. A poet is certainly allowed several full seconds to adjust the microphone and get them-self settled & ready, but as soon as they make a connection with the audience, the timekeeper can start the clock. The poet does not have an unlimited amount of "mime time." Poets with ambiguous beginnings & endings to their performances should seek out the timekeeper to assure an understanding of the performance. After three minutes, there is a 10-second grace period (up to and including 3:10.00).

#### I. Judging

- a. Judges will be selected from Delta Nu Boulé, UCONN, high school educators, and the community.

#### J. Protests

- a. Complaints, problems, and/or disagreements regarding the judging should be brought privately to the attention of the Spoken Word Competition Committee (SWCC). Decisions of the SWCC cannot be further challenged.

#### K. Scoring

- a. The judges will give each poem a score from 0 to 10, with 10 being the highest or "perfect" score. They will be encouraged to use one decimal place in order to preclude the likelihood of a tie. Each poem will get five scores. The high and the low scores will be dropped and the remaining three scores will be added together.

#### L. Winners

- a. Winners of the competition will be announced on the day of the performances. There will be two categories of winners; (1) college and (2) high school. There will be a first, second, and third place winner for each category.

# Participant Waiver

## THE OPPORTUNITY FOUNDATION (TOF) WAIVER OF LIABILITY

In consideration of being permitted to participate in the TOF related Spoken Word Competition event (an "Event") where individual artistry of poetry is being performed and light refreshments are consumed, I, for myself, do hereby release, waive, discharge, and covenant not to sue THE OPPORTUNITY FOUNDATION, their officers, employees, and agents from liability from any and all claims resulting in food related illness, personal injury, accidents or illnesses (including death), and property loss arising from, but not limited to, participation in this TOF Event.

## INDEMNIFICATION AND HOLD HARMLESS

I agree to INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS THE OPPORTUNITY FOUNDATION, their affiliates, direct or indirect, officers, employees, and agents (the "Indemnitees") from any and all claims, actions, suits, procedures, costs, expenses, damages and liabilities, including attorney's fees brought as a result of my involvement in this TOF Event.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

I have read this Waiver of Liability and Indemnity Agreement, fully understand its terms. I acknowledge that I am in agreement freely and voluntarily, am over the age of 18, and intend by my purchase to be a complete and unconditional release of all liability to the greatest extent allowed by law.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Opportunity Foundation Parent Consent/Release/Waiver of Liability Form

The Opportunity Foundation is a fully accredited not-for-profit, tax-exempt organization that offers mentorship programs and educational assistance to students. Your son/daughter, if selected, will receive opportunities to become a featured performer at our Couch Conversations event in February 2020 at UCONN Stamford location.

Student's School/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Name of student's parent/guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Street address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

1. I give my permission so that: My child's writing, artwork, photos or video may be published by The Opportunity Foundation in media including the internet, television, cable, newspapers and radio.
2. I hereby release, indemnify and hold harmless The Opportunity Foundation and the organizers, sponsors, officers, employees, volunteers, committees and boards, from and against any and all liability, loss, damages, claims, or actions (including costs and attorney fees) for bodily injury and/or property damage, to the extent permissible by law.
3. I have read and understand this consent, release, indemnification and hold harmless form. I voluntarily sign it and hereby give permission to The Opportunity Foundation for emergency transportation and/or treatment in the event of illness or injury. I hereby accept responsibility for the payment of any emergency transportation and/or treatment. I further certify that my child is in good physical condition, and has no medical or physical conditions that would restrict his/her participation in this activity or program.

Initial here: \_\_\_\_\_

My initials above signify that I have read, understand and agree with the paragraphs above.

Signature of parent/guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_