



Pride Week Poetry Slam

Join the Office of LGBTQIA Education & Engagement for the Pride Week Poetry Slam. Participants will have the opportunity to workshop their piece(s) on Tuesday, October 6 with guest artist and emcee Regie Cabico. **The Slam will consist of rounds of competition, preliminary and finals, that will take place on October 7 at 8:00 p.m.**

Slam participants may be students, faculty, staff, or community partners. Registration for the Poetry Slam is open to all. There are no fees to participate in the Slam, but registration is requested. In-person and virtual participation opportunities are available.

All spectators will join the Slam virtually using Zoom.

Questions about the Pride Week Poetry Slam should be sent to campuslife.lgbtqia@ttu.edu.

Guest Artist and Emcee



Regie Cabico (he/him/his), B.A., is one of the country's leading innovators and pioneers of The Poetry Slam having won 3 National Top Prizes including the Nuyorican Poets Cafe Grand Slam. He produces Capturing Fire: An International Queer Poetry Slam. He participated in the 2019 Asian American Literature Festival hosted by the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center.

Participant Rules

1. **Poems must be original works performed by the author.** Sampled lines or lyrics are permissible.
2. No musical accompaniment; however, beat boxing or acapella singing by the author is permitted
3. **No costumes or props.** Taking off clothes, grabbing a necklace for emphasis would be considered a prop violation. Holding a microphone or mic stand is permissible.
4. 3 minutes or less. Poems will be timed and there is a 20 second grace period. Time starts when the poet makes verbal or non-verbal contact with the judges and emcee. There will be a .5 deduction every 10 seconds a poet goes overtime.
5. Poems do not have to have "trans" or "queer" content.

6. Hate poetry against a group of people i.e. queerphobic. misogynistic, transphobic, racist, etc... will not be tolerated.
7. Poems do not need to be memorized. Poets will not be penalized for reading off the page. We discourage reading from a cell phone or electronic device, but it is permissible.
8. Poets will draw a number to determine order in preliminary and final rounds.
- 9. Poets cannot repeat the same poem between rounds.**
10. The number of poets that get eliminated or proceed to the finals will be based upon the number of poets signing up.
11. Register for the slam deadline by October 6.
12. Judges scores are based on a rubric and noted on a spread sheet. Score totals will not be announced. Poets will receive their score sheets at the end of each slam bout.
13. The top scoring poets may be asked to write a poem on the spot to break a tie or determine finalists or the slam champion.
14. Slam participants competing in-person are asked to arrive at St. John's United Methodist Church no later than 20 minutes before the slam starts. All registrants will receive contact information of the bout manager for questions and to check in at the slam event. Slam participants competing virtually are asked to login to Zoom Webinar no later than 20 minutes before the slam starts (see additional information below regarding in-person and virtual participation guidelines).
15. 2 person or group pieces will not be permissible to compete; However, we are open to having group slam pieces presented throughout the slam. Please check in with the bout manager.

In-Person Participation

Any Slam participant competing in-person will be required to affirm they are not exhibiting symptoms common to the novel COVID-19 virus. They will also be required to have their temperature taken by bout organizers using a no-contact thermometer upon arrival at St. John's United Methodist Church (Garden Room, follow posted signage). Participants showing two or more symptoms or displaying a temperature of greater than 100 degrees Fahrenheit will be disqualified at the discretion of the bout manager.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever or chills
- Muscle or body aches
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- New loss of taste or smell

In-person participants will be required to wear masks/facial coverings when inside St. John's United Methodist Church unless meeting a qualification for the following exception: Participants may remove their mask/facial covering while performing on-stage. Bout organizers will have disposable masks available and a limited number of clear face shields. Contestants may also bring their own clear face shield, though this must be sanitized upon arriving at the Slam (sanitization materials will be provided by the bout organizers). Slam participants will be required to wear masks/facial coverings during call-back and awards. Participants not properly wearing masks/facial coverings will receive a warning, followed by a 5-point penalty if not corrected.

Virtual Participation

Although bout organizers invite participants to compete in-person, participants who do not wish to compete at St. John's United Methodist Church have the option to compete virtually without penalty. This alternative method is intended for individuals who are at heightened risk for COVID-19 exposure and/or have deep concerns regarding potential exposure. When registering for the Slam, participants should indicate that they are competing in-person or virtually. Participants may schedule times with bout organizers to test their Zoom setup on Tuesday, October 6.

On the day of the Slam, virtual participants must join the bout Zoom by 7:40 p.m. During the Slam, virtual participants will keep their video off and sound muted while not "onstage". When it comes to their time to perform, each virtual participant will turn on their video and unmute their sound. Video filters will not be permitted. Points will not be deducted for minor technical difficulties, but we will deduct points for such difficulties if they persist. Finally, for the call-back and awards, virtual participants will turn on their video and may unmute their sound to accept an award.