



LTAB Poetry Teams

A good strategy to start any team would be to organize a slam, open mic, or other poetry performance as an in-school assembly or otherwise open gathering. It's good to feature experienced spoken word youth and adult artists at these performances. At the end of the show, have interested students sign up for an LTAB club.

There are three levels of increasing commitment one can employ to start a high school poetry slam team for Louder Than A Bomb.

LEVEL 1 – LOW

For this level it is important that everyone know the realistic commitment they are making - the bare minimum is that students write 4 or more performance poems (3 solo poems and 1 four-person group poem) 3 minutes or less in length, and they attend the opening event Crossing the Street on April 27th, two slam bouts, and, if applicable, semi-finals and finals. Coaches must attend an additional meeting.

Needs: An advisor, 4-6 youth poets, \$150 registration fee

Timeline: Dec/Jan through Early March

Estimated Tournament Cost (travel, lodge, food) : \$75/a day hotel, \$25/ a day food, \$20 gas

LEVEL 2 – MEDIUM

This level approaches LTAB with continual preparation for a sustainable yearly event. Most established LTAB teams view the competition this way, often engaging each other in slams prior to the big festival in order to practice their poems and build community.

Needs: advisor/coach who teaches English, Speech, or Theatre, 6-8 youth poets, \$150 registration fee, a weekly meeting space

Timeline: October through Early March

Estimated Tournament Cost: \$150 team, \$75 individual, \$75/a night hotel, \$25/a person food, \$20 gas

LEVEL 3 – HIGH

A high level of commitment means the group you're organizing is relatively large and committed to the spoken word/LTAB community. Often a Slam-Off at these schools will need to be employed in order to determine the team members. Teams with high commitment proactively organize their own special events and are highly invested in the future of LTAB and the communication between other schools and Poet.she.

Needs: A paid advisor; a paid coach who teaches poetry writing; a spoken word poetry club of 10+ students; a weekly or bi-weekly meeting space; participation and organization of special showcases, workshops and slams throughout the year

Timeline: Year-Round

Estimated Cost: \$100 paid workshop leader/instructor (optional), \$150 team, \$75/per night hotel, \$25/a night food

Definitions of key terms:

Advisor: An adult employed by the school who communicates with Poet.she to familiarize the team with all LTAB rules and expectations, including what to prepare for competition and when to be where.

Coach: Can also be the advisor, though this person should be able to knowingly guide youth through their writing process, performance techniques, and slam strategy (if valued by the team). This person may be on school faculty, but also may be a hired teaching artist with slam and spoken word pedagogical experience.

Youth Poet: For the purposes of the LTAB competition, competitors need to be in 6th to 12th grade or in a GED program and must be under 19 years old. They will be expected to write and perform original work individually and in a group of four youth poets performing a group poem.

When and Where

April 26th 2013: Opening Reception UNCGreensboro Elliot University Center Union
507 Sterling St. Greensboro NC 7:00pm- 9:00pm

April 27th: Registration 8am- 12pm
Order assignment/Bout Draw : 12:15
Lunch:12:30-1:30
Workshops/Side Events: 2pm-6pm
5:30-6:00pm- Break
6:15pm-8pm- Semi- Finals Bout1
8pm-10:15pm Semi Finals Bout 2
10:15-11:30pm Mix & Mingle

April 28th: UNCGreensboro Workshops/Speaker 9am-12 pm
1pm-3pm Finals
3:30 Closing Ceremony
4pm: Jam session

Hotel reservations have been set up at the Clarion Hotel 415 South Swing Road Greensboro, NC 27409, in Greensboro NC, but any teams is open to booking hotel accommodations at the location of their choice. The price is \$75 dollars a night for team.

The transportation arrangements are set up by the individual team, but we will be able to provide a bus that will transport students while on/in the campus area.

Registration cost includes: registration, t-shirt, gift bag, catered meal, campus transportation.

Meals during the competition will be offered/catered for all participants, volunteers, and coaches.

All permission forms must be signed by parents/guardians. All forms must be completed by the team coach and returned by Nov 30th for pre- registration.

LINKS:

www.YoungChicagoAuthors.org

www.LouderThanABomb.org

Poetshe.org

Questions? Call or email Poet.she Director poetshe7@gmail.com, ltabgreensboro@gmail.com, or Nina Collins missninasimone@gmail.com