



English in Action

The English-Speaking Union  
National Shakespeare Competition

**To: Dedicated Drama and English Teachers**

**From: Wendy Low, Rochester Branch English Speakers Union**

**Give Your Students the Opportunities of the 2018 ESU National Shakespeare Competition!**

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We invite your school to celebrate Shakespeare by participating in the **English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition!** In this program, high school students nationwide read, analyze, perform, and recite Shakespearean monologues and sonnets in as many as three qualifying stages: school, ESU Branch, and national levels. Learn more about this free, educational program at [www.shakespearecompetition.org](http://www.shakespearecompetition.org). Note that the local Rochester Chapter winner will receive an all-expenses paid trip to the National Competition in New York City.

For those of you who participated in the program last year, we express our deep appreciation for your dedication to this program and your students. You were part of a national effort involving over 20,000 students and 1,500 teachers who encouraged their students to excel at Shakespeare.

If your school has not yet taken part in our Competition, we hope that you will consider offering this exciting, educational opportunity at your school. Your students will develop essential skills (critical thinking, close reading, and public speaking) and increase their self-confidence through reading, analyzing, and performing Shakespeare. You'll find your students come alive through Shakespeare's timeless works.

In order to participate in the program, your school must:

- Sign-up with your local English-Speaking Union branch (Rochester, NY)
  - Fill out the [School Participation Form](#) online.
  - Confirm with the Rochester ESU Branch Shakespeare Coordinator that your school is registered for the program. You are not guaranteed participation in the 2018 Competition until you receive this confirmation.
- Review competition materials
  - Review the [2017-2018 ESU NSC Teacher Handbook](#). This handbook includes:
    - Conditions of School Participation
    - Organizing the School Competition and Supplies
    - Judging Materials
    - Lesson Plans
    - Connection to National Standards
  - Student monologues must be selected from the [2018 Monologue Selection Packet](#).
- Hold an in-school Shakespeare Competition, where students perform monologues from Shakespeare's plays, prior to March 1, 2018. Select one student who will represent your school at the Rochester ESU Branch competition on Sunday, March 4, 2018.
- Submit the [School Winner Entry Form](#) to qualify your student for the branch-level competition.

Prizes: The winner of the ESU Branch competition will perform in New York City with other branch winners from across the country. The top prizes at the national level include summer scholarships and cash awards. The Rochester Branch in particular provides an ALL EXPENSES PAID TRIP TO NYC for the winner of the local competition!

Thank you for your interest in the English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition. Please contact us with any questions. We look forward to working with you this year!

With deep respect,

Rochester Branch, English Speakers Union

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