

Poetry Slam Team/Club Charter
Copper Hills High School, 2016-2017

I. Purpose

A. The purpose of Copper Hills Slam is to give teenagers the opportunity to express themselves through performance poetry. Students create individual and group-original works, memorize these works, and present them for an audience and group of judges who score them from 1 to 10. The competitions can take place on a school, multi-school, state, or national level as well as in public venues. We seek to include everyone without judgment. Likewise, our poetry will educate, inspire, and empower both our poets and their audiences.

II. Activities

A. Practices

1. Students will attend practices held at least once a week. This will be subject to change, as the event becomes a class at the school in 2016. If the current coach chooses to, he or she may opt to use Grizzly Ops as an opportune time for team/club members to practice both their writing and presenting for an unbiased crowd. Weekly practices will also be held on a previously agreed day of the week. Coaches may add or decrease the amount of practices where they see fit. Practices could increase in number if a competition is approaching.

2. Students are expected to bring completed and even partially completed pieces to every practice both for presentation and for critique from coaches and the team. Students should expect to receive constant feedback on the writing and performance aspects of their poems. Students should accept all feedback from coaches and strive for improvement. Once a poem has been presented at competition level, students are encouraged to create new material. Students who show a lack of desire for creating and bringing poetry or who fail to appropriately accept feedback from coaches may receive probationary status or even termination from the team.

3. Part of the art of Slam Poetry is listening and analyzing other's poems. Students should be prepared to provide their peers with feedback after poems are presented. Students will find that their own abilities may increase as they strive to become better listeners and interpreters.

4. Students who must miss practices for other required events i.e. emergencies, classwork, sporting events or other extra curricular

activities, must communicate this information with coaches and get this approved well in advance. Continuous failure to make practices may lead to a probationary status or termination from the team. Students who fail to attend practices will not be allowed to compete in competitions unless pre-approved by a Coach due to extenuating circumstances.

5. Though we encourage students to constantly practice individually and create new poetry where they see fit, we expect pieces to be presented at a number of practices prior to being accepted as 'competition-ready.' Any poet who performs a new poem at a competition, which was not run through the peer review process and was not approved by the coaches beforehand, will risk immediate termination from the team.

6. At least one coach must be present for an official team practice to take place. Coaches must approve any outside or non-school practices with the advisor.

7. Because this is a school-sanctioned event, school rules of conduct and behavior apply.

B. Competitions

1. Competitions are to be organized in advance by coaches or advisors. Competitions can be with other schools, the public, or a showcase among team members.

a. School vs. school competitions are to be held in a pre-determined school venue. Though particulars of each competition can be adjusted on a as-needed basis, competitions will generally follow the following format:

(1). Poems

(a.) One original poem, per team, per round.

(b.) Four rounds

(c.) Poems are to be 3 minutes in length, with a 10 second grace period. Poems that exceed 3:10 will be deducted 1 point from their total score for every 10 seconds they go over.

(c.) Group pieces are allowed

(2.) Content

(a.) No props, music, or costumes are allowed.

(b.) Material should be pre-approved by coaches as to avoid use of profanity, sexually or violently graphic language, or any lines that could be deemed degrading to any one person.

(c.) All poems must be original

(3.) Teams

(a.) A competing team may have up to five members with the 5th member serving as a floater if teams opt for a group piece.

(b.) Every team member must be a primary author to one of the pieces performed by their team.

(c.) Duos, trios, or quartets may perform poems but no more than four poets may be on the stage at one time.

(d.) Teams should remember that they represent their school at all times and should act accordingly.

(4.) Judging

(a.) Hosting schools should set up judges ahead of time but make sure their choices are not subject to bias. It is suggested that schools invite local, professional slam charters like Wasatch Wordsmiths to participate for said purposes. Schools may also agree to each provide a judge.

(b.) Competitions should have five judges who rate each poem on a scale of 1 to 10. Judges are encouraged to use varying decimal point scores to avoid the possibility of a tie.

(c.) Scores for each poem should be called for by the host following each presentation. The highest score and lowest score should be eliminated and the remaining scores added together for the poet's total score.

(d.) Hosting schools should also provide a non-biased host/emcee for the event as well as a scorekeeper.

2. In order to participate in competitions, students must have a completed poem, which has been approved and reviewed by the coaches and the advisor. Students may not have an "F" or "NG" in any classes by the day of the competition if they wish to compete.

C. Public Competitions

1. Students are expected to use any opportunities available to them to practice their art. This includes competing at public venues. Students may not expect to abide by school rules during public competitions; however, they should understand that they still represent their team

and that they will be held accountable for their actions. Coaches or advisors may choose to place team members on probationary status or terminate poets based on these actions.

III. Membership

A. Because 'Performance Poetry' will be a class in 2016, Copper Hills Slam will be a curriculum-related club. As per school rules, the team/club will maintain a minimum of seven members at all times.

B. Students wishing to enroll in the class will need instructor approval.

C. Students wishing to be a part of the Copper Hills Slam Team and Club will need written permission and approval from a parent or guardian with legal custody.

D. The members of the Poetry Slam Team/Club club commit to comply with Utah Code Ann. § 53A-3-419, Administrative Code R277-617, all other applicable laws and regulations and District and school policies and regulations.

F. Any anticipated dues for the club should never exceed fifty dollars per student and should be used to pay for club items i.e. t-shirts, writing materials, field trips, or competition materials.

G. Offices

1. Advisor/Coach and Coaches
2. President
3. Vice President
4. Secretary
5. Historian
6. Advertising
7. Public Relations

IV. Poetry Content

A. As the Copper Hills Slam Team, we strive to produce material that makes everyone feel welcome. Our poems should educate, inspire, and empower others. Our poems should never alienate people or push boundaries of violence, sexuality, or degradation.

B. Students should write poetry continuously and should feel welcome to present any of the material during practices. However, student poems are subject to review and possible elimination by the advisor or coaches.

C. The advisor or coaches reserve the right to choose the poets and poems they feel would best represent Copper Hills High School at each competition.

D. Though we do not believe in censorship, we will abide by school and district policies when creating our poems.

V. Discipline, Probation, Termination

A. The advisor and coaches reserve the right to place any team member on probation for actions that are deemed contrary to our mission. Excessive violations may result in immediate termination from the team.

B. Participation on this team is not a right, it is a privilege. Poets should treasure their opportunities on this team and not abuse them. Actions by any team member, which may lead to embarrassment of the team or that may portray the team in a negative light may result in termination from the team.

C. Students who use social media should remember that they represent the team. When they put something out on the web, the entire team may be affected. Anything posted to social media, which could negatively impact the image of the team may be grounds for probation or termination from the team.

D. Respect for the advisor and coaches is expected at all times. We want all participants in poetry slam to feel like they have a voice. We try to include all team members in decisions that affect the group. We want poets to be both critical writers and thinkers but also speakers. However, the democratic nature of our club should not lead students to believe that they can say whatever they feel without consequence. Students should maintain respect in their speech towards themselves, towards each other, and especially towards their coaches and advisor. Any and all issues that arise should be addressed immediately and through the proper channels. Any insubordination, disrespect or backbiting may result in probation or termination from the team.

VI. Amendments

A. The advisor or coaches reserve the right to make amendments to this charter as they see fit.

All students who receive parental or guardian consent to participate in or on the Copper Hills Poetry Slam team must also personally commit to following the guidelines of this charter. Failure to do so will preclude students from participation.

I agree to the terms and conditions, as well as rules and regulations of the Copper Hills Poetry SLAM Team 2015/2016 Charter. I agree to abide by such and understand the risks of failing to do so.

_____ (Printed Name)

_____ (Signature)

_____ (Date)