

What is a Poetry Slam?

It's competition poetry: meaning humor, politics, entertainment masquerading as literature, literature masquerading as entertainment. Poets read, then judges flash Olympic-style scoring (ranging from 1 to 10) based on both writing and performance of the poem. This goes on for 3 rounds to determine somebody with a high score that we can declare as the winner. In truth, everyone who adds to the event should be considered a winner, but we only have one trophy, we have to figure out some way to give it out.

What can the audience do?

Cheer, boo, clap. You're who the poet wants to reach, respond accordingly. Especially if you like what you see: don't silently admire, let poets know they're doing something worth doing.

What kind of poetry should you read at a slam?

Any. Some styles certainly get higher scores at most slams, but you are encouraged to bring or write that day whatever you feel like reading: a sonnet, a sestina, a 3-minute political rant, a free verse exclamation on the glory of llamas, a haiku, just do it.

PARTNERSHIPS

Prairie Visions Writing Festival is done in partnership with Friends of Homestead and the Beatrice Public Library.

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Homestead National Monument of America
8523 West State Highway 4
Beatrice, NE 68310-6743

**Attention:
Writing Teachers!**

**Prairie
Visions
Writing
Festival
&
Poetry Slam
with
Matt
Mason**

The graphic features a central vertical stem with several large, stylized prairie flowers and leaves. The text is overlaid on the right side of the stem. The entire graphic is enclosed in a double-line border.

Prairie Visions Writing Festival & Poetry Slam

WHO

Join poet Matt Mason and other high school juniors and seniors from Nebraska for the *Prairie Visions Writing Festival*.

WHAT

Prairie Visions Writing Festival is a poetry writing workshop designed to help students improve their writing skills. In the morning Mr. Mason will give classes on writing poetry and the rules on the Poetry Slam for the afternoon. Students will then take their box lunch and drawing inspiration from Homestead's tallgrass prairie, write their own poetry. Following lunch, students will come together and if they choose participate in the Poetry Slam for a trophy! See a YouTube clip from last year's Poetry Slam @ <http://youtu.be/Ax4vYJwoo8E>



Homestead Poetry Slam 2011 Winners, Shane Nevius, first place, Randi Lee, third place, Eli Chase, second place and poet Matt Mason

WHEN

Prairie Visions Writing Festival will be on **Wednesday, September 26, 2012, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

WHERE

Prairie Visions Writing Festival will be held at Homestead National Monument of America's Education Center. The workshop will be outside, underneath a tent. Students will also be walking the trails so please dress accordingly.

HOW TO REGISTER

Pre-registration is required. Fill out the Google form at <http://tinyurl.com/8mu8ka7> by Sept 21, 2012. Space is limited to 100 students.

Registration is \$5 per person which pays for lunch. **Please make checks payable to the Friends of Homestead.** Food will be ordered for the number registered, as such payment must be made for all registered participants.

For questions on registration, please contact Park Ranger Tina Miller, Education Coordinator @ (402) 223-3514 or email her @ tina_miller@nps.gov.

THE FINE PRINT

If students choose to submit original works, student submissions will be compiled using Google Docs. Students should have their parent/guardian Release to Publish form signed prior to arrival.

MATT MASON

Matt Mason is the recipient of a Pushcart Prize (to be published in the 2013 anthology) and has won 2 Nebraska book awards. He received his MA in Creative Writing from the University of California at Davis in 1994, then returned to Omaha, where he works to promote public poetry readings and poetry readers as executive director of the Nebraska Writers Collective, president of the Nebraska Center for the Book, and through PoetryMenu.com, an online listing of poetry events. Matt's first book of poetry, *Things We Don't Know We Don't Know*, won the 2007 Nebraska Book Award for Poetry and was a Contemporary Poetry Best Seller. He runs the monthly poetry slam and open mic at the Omaha Healing Arts Center and was on 5 poetry slam teams at the National Poetry Slam. Matt has helped with poetry events in Nepal and Belarus through the U.S. State Department and also for bookstores, high schools, junior highs, colleges, libraries, state fairs, and more in the U.S. Learn more about Matt at matt.midverse.com.

