



2010 ESU National Shakespeare Competition

A Message to the Branches

The English-Speaking Union of the United States

To: Branch Shakespeare Coordinators
CC: Branch Presidents
From: Karen Jeff, Director of Education
Date: August, 2009

It's once again time to start planning for the National Shakespeare Competition, scheduled for April 24-27, 2010.

All Competition information and forms are now posted on the ESU website: www.esuus.org. You can simply download the information, edit where indicated to include the particulars of your Branch Competition and e-mail it to the schools in your community. The pages you need to custom edit will be available as Word documents and the rest are Adobe documents. You may choose to post the information on your own Branch websites for teachers to refer to directly.

This year, in response to several comments regarding teacher confusion over where to send forms, we ask you to consider making your email address available on our website. If you do not wish to do so, we will direct inquiries regarding your Branch Competition to shakespeare@esuus.org. From our email we will then provide your contact information to the teacher if you have given us permission to do so.

We have also added the Language Arts Standards report that we sent separately last year. This report links the ESU National Shakespeare Competition to *Standards for the English Language Arts* adopted by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) and the International Reading Association (IRA). This document may be helpful in recruiting new schools and encouraging teachers to continue participating given the increased emphasis on students' test scores.

The information will be posted in two parts:

1. Information for Branches

- a) Branch Memos and Forms
 - Conditions of Branch Participation
 - Branch Participation Agreement
 - ESU Mission Statement and History of the Competition
 - Language Arts Standards Report
- b) School Materials to be completed by Branches
 - Sample Memo to Teachers
 - Invitation to Students
 - Invitation to Schools
 - School Participation Forms
 - Branch Competition Entry Form *

2. Information for Schools

- ESU Mission Statement and History of the Competition
- Instructions for the School Competition
- Suggested Monologues
- Student Guidelines
- Notes for Judges
- From the Judges: "What They Look For"
- Judges' Evaluation Form

***PLEASE NOTE:** The Branch Competition Entry Form replaces BOTH the School Winner Form and the National Contestant Entry Form. Please send this form to the schools before their competition and have them return the completed forms to coordinators before the Branch Competition. When the Branch Competition is completed please fill out the top portion and send a copy of the Branch Competition Entry Form for **both** the winner and the runner-up of your local competition to National Headquarters by March 8th, 2010.

Students can choose from a wide variety of monologues. A list of suggested monologues and the official text for the 2010 program will be posted on our website, www.esuus.org.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions. I look forward to working with you all during the next year. Thank you for everything you do to make the Shakespeare Competition work so well in your communities.