

WCSH6.com

Students Compete In "Poetry Out Loud"

Web Editor: [Rob Wilber](#), Producer

Last Updated: 2/29/2008 8:51:54 AM

BANGOR (NEWS CENTER) -- Twenty high school students from Northern and Eastern Maine spent Thursday afternoon reciting poetry on the stage at the Penobscot Theater.

The students are competing in the semi-finals of the "[Poetry Out Loud](#): National Recitation Contest."

The state winner will move on to the national competition in Washington, D.C. for a chance to win a \$20,000 college scholarship.

Each participant in the event had to recite a classic poem from memory in front of the judges and a full audience.

The students say it may not sound very difficult, but it's quite a challenge, because you have to be perfect.

"Like accuracy and articulation, you know pretty much what they are looking for. You can't go up there and stammer your poem out. You can't forget your lines," says Nicholas Imbimbo of Ellsworth High School. "Dramatization, it's kind of hard to know what they are looking for. What I did is I looked at people in the top 5 from nationals last year. I looked at those and then I just thought about how how I would go about it on stage."

The event is sponsored by the Maine Arts Commission.

The ten state finalists will move on to Bates College on Saturday, March 8 to compete for the right to represent the state at the national competition.

Top Five Finalists (Girls)

Kelsey Linnell -- Rangeley Lakes Regional High School

Cara Adams -- John Bapst Memorial High School

Kate McKeown -- Leavitt High School

Lydia McOscar -- Bangor High School

Kristina King -- Hampden Academy

NEWS CENTER

©2007 WCSH6.com/Gannett Co., Inc. All Rights Reserved.