



Action Education and *South Auckland Poets Collective*

are proud to present

WORD - The Front Line

'WORD - The Front Line' is an inter-high school Spoken Word Poetry competition, bringing together teams of young people from across Auckland to share their stories in an explosion of youth expression. It is a poetry slam with the purpose of engaging and growing the potential of our future leaders.

It is the only creative battlefield of its kind, equipping young people with poetry prowess and leadership principles for an opportunity to battle for themselves and the challenges that their generation face. Since our successful launch in 2014, Word – The Front Line has continued to grow exponentially. In preparation for 2017, we are so excited to continue witnessing young people rise up, discover their voice and grow in their leadership.

The Heart

IT'S ALL ABOUT THEM



'WORD - The Front Line' was birthed out of a realization that our youth need an avenue where they can be heard; express their views and share their stories, while being supported in an environment that promotes their personal growth. We also wanted to do this in a way that brings the youth and their communities together to support and celebrate their experience.

WHO ARE WE?



ACTION EDUCATION

Action Education is a non-profit organization set up to engage and empower young people through creative and action based methods. **South Auckland Poets Collective** are a group of storytellers with a passion for using Spoken Word to engage and inspire the youth of Aotearoa. Together we form a dynamic team of artists and mentors that care about the community and drawing out the leadership potential in young people.

Art & Literature

ENGAGING WITH VOICES

Spoken Word at its best, is story-telling bringing people together. Also referred to as 'performance poetry' it is a powerful creative medium taking the world by storm, which began in USA in the 1980's and over the past five years has become increasingly popular amongst youth culture in NZ.

Outcomes:

POTENTIAL REACH



1. ENGAGING OUR YOUTH

The target of our first outcome is to engage the youth of Auckland (and other cities in years to come) in a way that is fun, educational, informative and inspiring.

'**WORD - The Front Line**' will provide a series of workshops for qualifying schools leading up to the main event. These will be set up to facilitate young people exploring their creative ability and to help develop their literary skills. The leadership principles built into this programme will ensure youth take away personal life tools to support them in the future whatever their chosen path. From the young writers taking part, to their peers in the audience, we hope to encourage a love of language, communication and engagement with literature.



2. ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITY

The target for our second outcome is to engage our community with Spoken Word through the voices of our own young people. To build a stronger community we need to bridge the divide between generations, communication is a key factor in this. '**WORD - The Front Line**' attracts the young and old to a stage where this powerful dialogue of connection begins. A stage where young people courageously confront their truth and share their journey in the creative expression of spoken word poetry.

Better Together

AGENTS OF CHANGE

Our young people should know that their city wants to see them as individuals confident and thriving. 'WORD - The Front Line' exists for this purpose. But it will take a collaborative effort from community leaders to see this vision get off the ground successfully. Your support of this exciting project is invaluable. WORD – The Front Line activates leadership beyond the stage where they are encouraged to engage in their communities and strengthen their leadership skills in this process.



QUOTES FROM PREVIOUS TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

"[WORD – The Front Line] has allowed them a platform for their learning and expression, and the journey of crafting a poem from their life experience. It has also given them confidence and provided them with a process/foray for self-discovery (in small ways that may not be overtly visible, but subtleties are still growth!)"

"[WORD – The Front Line] has been a great experience for them, increasing their confidence, allowing them to see perspectives, meet people, and have experiences they would otherwise not have encountered."

"The Camp encourages teens to express the soul in you, and I like that we had this pit stop to reflect on ourselves before going back on the road to face society and reality."

"It was really fun, engaging, educational and helped me to improve in my socializing skills."

"It was, overall, a very enlightening experience. Everyone was welcoming and incredibly talented."



Kia Ora and welcome to Word – The Front Line 2017! Here you will find all the information that you need to know for the auditions. If you do have any other questions or queries, please contact us at stevie@actioneducation.co.nz or ramon@actioneducation.co.nz

TEAMS

Each team must have a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 6 poets. Each school may put forward up to 2 teams. If your team makes it through auditions please know there are strict guidelines regarding team members dropping out and being replaced. If this happens, please contact us at stevie@actioneducation.co.nz

REGISTRATION

To register, please fill out the registration form below including the teacher sign off and send it back to us at stevie@actioneducation.co.nz. North Shore, West and Central Schools must submit their registration forms by **Friday 24th March 5pm**. South and East Auckland Schools must submit their registration forms by **Friday 31st March 5pm**. For teachers interested in learning more about WORD – The Front Line, we will be having a teacher's information evening on **Tuesday 7th March 6:30pm**.

AUDITION STRUCTURE

There will be 3 different auditions held in April. Once you are registered you will receive confirmation of when and where your audition will be. If you are unable to make your scheduled audition date, **please let us know as soon as possible** so we have enough time to try and move you. All teams need to arrive at their audition venue by 9:45am to register, and then the order will be drawn. Each school will be required to perform 3 poems. It is up to your team to decide who will perform. Not all team members need to perform at auditions. Auditions will be held according to regions as follows:

<i>AUDITIONS</i>			
SCHOOLS	DATE	TIME	VENUE
North & West	Saturday 1 st April	10am-1pm	Hobsonville Point Secondary School
Central	Saturday 1 st April	10am-1pm	Lynfield Youth & Leisure Centre YMCA
South & East	Saturday 8 th April	10am-1pm	Otara Music Arts Centre

ADVANCING TEAMS

In total, **14 teams** will be selected from auditions.

4 teams from each audition will be selected to advance. Please note that at least 3 of the 4 teams selected from each audition must be from that region (North & West, Central, and South). For teams competing outside of their school's region/original audition there will only be one spot up for grabs at each audition. Therefore it is in your best interest to compete at your own audition.

On top of the 4 teams from each audition, we will also be choosing an additional 2 schools who have not previously competed in Word – The Front Line to advance, who we believe have great potential and would benefit highly from the competition.

The teams who are advancing will be announced after all regional auditions have been completed and will receive further information about the competition.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Poems do not need to be memorized for auditions. Auditions are not about performance but more about the writing ability and content of the poem. Each poem will be judged on the following:

Writing Technique - This is their ability to write a poem. The structure. The use of poetic devices such as metaphor, simile, alliteration etc. How does it sound? Does it sound good? Can you follow it?

Uniqueness - The uniqueness of the story or message which is being portrayed. Is there something about the poet which stands out, grabs your attention or captures your interest?

Content – This is about impact. How well were you able to understand their message? How did it resonate? Did it move you? Did it make an impact?

SLAM CAMP & WORKSHOPS

All team members are expected to attend all of Slam Camp (an overnight camp) and the 3 compulsory workshops (note: there are 2 optional workshops which teams are advised to attend but are not compulsory). If your school requires notice in order for your team to participate in the overnight Slam Camp, please make sure to let your school know as soon as possible. There are about 4 weeks between the announcement of which schools have made it through and Slam Camp. We suggest that if your team does make it through that you notify your school as soon as possible. If your school needs more than 4 weeks' notice we suggest that you notify them prior to auditions that should your team make it through they will be required to participate in an overnight Slam Camp.

PARTICIPATION AND COMMUNITY POINTS

The 14 teams who advance through auditions will start off with 5 points. There are 5 days that all participants are expected to attend: both days of slam camp and the 3 mandatory workshops. For each day that one or multiple team members are absent, 1 point will be deducted from the 5 points. Teams who have lost points will have the chance to earn them back in a community challenge (details released later). These points will then be added to the teams' scores at semi-finals.



KEY DATES

Information Evening	TUE 7 th March
Audition #1	SAT 1 st April
Audition #2	SAT 8 th April
Slam Camp	13 th -14 th May (Overnight)
Auckland Readers & Writers Workshop*	SAT 20 th May
Workshop #1	SAT 3 rd June
Workshop #2	SAT 17 th June
Workshop #3*	SAT 24 th June
Workshop #4	SAT 8 th July
Semi-Finals #1	SAT 5 th August
Semi-Finals #2	SAT 12 th August
Grand Slam	SAT 9 th September

**Optional Workshops*

VENUES:

Workshops – Auckland Art Gallery

Slam Camp – Te Puea Marae

Semi-Finals #1 – Bruce Mason Centre

Semi-Finals #2 – The Concert Chamber - Town Hall

Grand Slam – Auckland Town Hall

RULES

1. Each poet must prepare one complete 3 min poem that they have written and memorized
2. There will be 4 judges. Judges will complete a final score out of 10 for each performance.
3. There will be 3 rounds; all poets in the team must have performed by the end of round 3.
4. Points from all rounds will be accumulative; the team with the highest score at the end of round 3 is the winner.
5. No accompaniment by props or sound is allowed.
6. Plagiarised material will result in disqualification.

(Rules 1 and 3 are not applicable to auditions)

ENTRY CRITERIA

1. Each High School may put forward up to 2 teams of 4-6 poets per team
2. Students must be aged between 13 to 18 years
3. Audition applications close:
Friday 24th March 5pm – North, West & Central schools
Friday 31st March 5pm – South and East schools
4. Auditions require 3 poems from each team. At least 3 poets per team need to audition on the day and must perform their own original pieces.
5. Judges will be looking for poetry and leadership potential

Note: 14 schools will be selected from auditions.

HOW TO REGISTER

1. Teams will need to complete an Audition Registration Form before closing date
2. Teacher must sign-off and email to stevie@actioneducation.co.nz
3. Response will be sent with audition date

Note: Registrations close Friday 24th March 5pm

JUDGING CRITERIA

1. Each poem has a time limit of 3mins. There will be a 10sec grace extended after 3min if you exceed the time of 3mins 10secs your team will be penalised 1 point per 10 seconds over. (This does not apply for auditions).
2. Each judge will score the following:
 - PERFORMANCE
 - WRITING ABILITY
 - UNIQUENESS
 - CROWD REACTION



REGISTRATION FORM

1

FIRST NAME: _____ SURNAME: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____ EMAIL: _____

2

FIRST NAME: _____ SURNAME: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____ EMAIL: _____

3

FIRST NAME: _____ SURNAME: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____ EMAIL: _____

4

FIRST NAME: _____ SURNAME: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____ EMAIL: _____

5

FIRST NAME: _____ SURNAME: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____ EMAIL: _____

6

FIRST NAME: _____ SURNAME: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____ EMAIL: _____

*Please note a school can only enter a maximum of two teams. Each team can have 4-6 poets.

In both the semi-final and grand final there are three rounds. All poets in the team must have performed within the three rounds. This means each team will need to prepare a collaborative or group piece if they make it through to the semi and grand finals, to ensure all poets are able to perform within the given 3 rounds.

TEACHER SIGN OFF

DATE: _____ HIGH SCHOOL: _____

FULL NAME: _____ ROLE: _____