



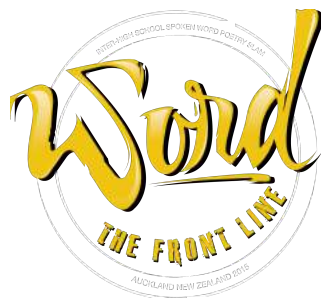
ACTION EDUCATION



**2020 Information Pack.**

## CONTENTS

Welcome to WORD - The Front Line .....	2
The Heart & Outcomes of WORD .....	3
Better Together - Quotes .....	4
Registration Information .....	5
Regional Heats Information .....	6
Judging Criteria & Rules .....	7
Advancing Teams .....	8
Programme Dates .....	9
Contact Us .....	10



**Action Education and the South Auckland Poets Collective  
are proud to present**

## **WORD - The Front Line 2020**

'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. The programme focuses on writing, performance, team work, personal development, youth voice, identity, leadership, and community. WORD - The Front Line is a platform for young people to express themselves, connect with others, and discover how they can change the world.

The programme was launched in 2014 and has continued to grow and go from strength to strength each year. In 2019 the programme will enter its 6th year and we are excited to witness young people rise, up, discover their voice, and grow in their leadership.

*“ Poetry has allowed us to become more than syntax and diction. More than 2am writing. More than raw emotion. It feels as if we have been granted wings, and with these wings we will fly. ”*

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# 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.

## ENGAGING WITH VOICES

Spoken Word at its best, is story-telling bringing people together. Also referred to as 'performance poetry' or 'slam poetry' it is a powerful creative medium taking the world by storm. In recent years we have seen the exponential growth of spoken word poetry in popular culture. Young people in particular have connected with this media and have found a platform to share their opinions, voices and stories.

# Outcomes:

## 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 STUDENTS

"WORD - The Front Line provides a space for youth to use their voice. It is a journey of growth and an investment in leadership and expression of our future generations"

"WORD - The Front Line has helped me to grow, both as a poet and an individual"

"I learnt to remove all stereotypes about sexuality, race, age etc. This goes beyond poetry, it's about being wise with our words"

"WORD - The Front Line has helped me greatly because before this I was not in a good head space and WORD helped me find my outlet that isn't punching walls and hurting others"

"We are world changers in the making"

"My voice was finally heard"



# Registrations

## TEAMS

Each school can put forward up to 2 teams through to the regional heats. Each team must have a minimum of 4 and maximum of 6 poets, and all team members must be attending the same high school. It is possible for 2 teams from the same school to make it through, We saw this for the first time in 2019 from De La Salle College. If your team makes it through regional heats please know there are strict guidelines regarding team members dropping out and being replaced, whereby no more than half of the original team may be replaced. If this happens, please contact us as soon as possible.

## REGISTRATION

To register your team(s), please complete the online registration form at our website [www.actioneducation.co.nz](http://www.actioneducation.co.nz). North Shore, West & Central Schools must submit their registration forms by 5pm Monday on May 4th. South & East Auckland Schools must submit their registration forms by 5pm Monday on May 11th.

Once you have submitted your registration form you will receive an email confirming your registration and the details of which regional heat you will be participating in. Please make sure your team has thoroughly read through this pack BEFORE registering your team to compete. It is important that your whole team is aware of the dates for the entire programme (slam camp, workshops, semi-finals, the Grand Slam) to make sure team members can commit should they make it through.

For teachers interested in learning more about WORD – The Front Line, we will be having a teacher information evening on Wednesday 11th March 6:30pm.

## PREPARING FOR REGIONAL HEATS

In order to help teams prepare for regional heats, especially those who have not participated in the programme before, we offer each school 1 free workshop. These presentations and workshops can be extremely helpful to advertise the programme, gather interest, introduce students to spoken word poetry, answer questions, and support them to work on their poems before regional heats. We can also help your school set up an ongoing spoken word poetry club. Please note that teams do not need experience in order to be a part of the programme. Additional workshops can also be arranged at a cost.

If you are wanting to organise a workshop for your team(s) please be sure to get in touch as soon as possible as our calendars fill up fast.

# Regional Heats

## REGIONAL HEATS STRUCTURE

There will be 2 different regional heats. Once you are registered you will receive confirmation of which heat your team(s) will be competing in. If you are unable to make your scheduled date please let us know as soon as possible so we have enough time to try and move you. Please note there are rules about competing outside of your region (please see 'Advancing Teams' for more information).

Each regional heat will have 2 bouts. The first bout will run from 10am-12pm, the second will run from 1-3pm. Prior to the heats (once registrations have closed) we will do a draw to determine which teams will be participating in each bout, and all teams will be notified. We suggest keeping the entire day free to make sure your team is available for both bouts. You are only required to be there for your bout, but are welcome to be there for both. Your team must be onsite 15 minutes prior to your bout starting to register. Once all teams have arrived the order will be drawn.

Each team is required to perform 3 poems - these do not need to be memorised (can be read off paper or cellphone). At least 3 poets from each team must perform. Only poets who are performing are required to be present, but we do encourage all team members to attend for support. Please see the rule sheet below for more information.

Regional heats will be held as follows:

Regional Heats				
SCHOOLS	DATE	BOUT 1	BOUT 2	VENUE
NORTH WEST & CENTRAL	Sat 9th May	10am-12pm	1pm-3pm	TEPAC 100 Motions Road, Western Springs
SOUTH & EAST	Sat 16th May	10am-12pm	1pm-3pm	Māngere Central Community Hall 241 Kirkbride Road, Mangere,

## JUDGING CRITERIA - REGIONALS

Poems do not need to be memorized. Regional heats 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?

## RULES FOR REGIONAL HEATS

For all rules please see the rule book at [actioneducation.co.nz](http://actioneducation.co.nz)

1. Each team is required to perform 3 poems
2. Poets must perform their own work and cannot read a poem on behalf of someone else. Plagiarised material will result in disqualification
3. At least 3 poets from each team must perform at regional heats. Teams can perform solos, duets, or group pieces. Although duets and group pieces are not necessary for regional heats, it will be for teams that advance to Semi-Finals and Grand Slam
4. Poems do not need to be memorised at this stage of the competition
5. Each poem should be between 1-4 minutes. Poems outside of this time frame will not receive any penalties, but may be difficult to judge if they are too long or too short.
6. No accompaniment by sound, props, or costume is allowed.

## ADVANCING TEAMS

In total, 14 teams will be advancing to the next stage of the competition.

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

On top of the 4 teams from each regional heat, we will also be choosing an additional 2 teams who have not competed in WORD - The Front Line over the last two years, who we believe have great potential and would benefit highly from the competition.

The teams who are advancing will be announced via our WORD - The Front Line Facebook page after all regional heats have been completed and will receive further information about the competition.



# Advancing Teams

## **SLAM CAMP & WORKSHOPS**

All team members are expected to attend all of Slam Camp, the 3 workshops and the Semi-Finals. If your school requires notice in order for your team to participate in Slam Camp (a 2 night stay at a Marae), please make sure to let your school know as soon as possible. There are only 3 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 3 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.

## **COMMUNITY POINTS**

The 14 teams who advance through the Regional Heats will start off with 5 points. There are 6 days that all participants are expected to attend: all 3 days of slam camp and all 3 workshops. For each day that one or multiple team members are absent, 1 point will be deducted from the 5 points. There will be a list of various opportunities for teams to regain points provided at slam camp.

Going into Semi-Finals, these community points will be added to your overall scores.

**Please note:** Although Word - The Front Line is an extremely fun and rewarding programme, it does require time and commitment from the teams. It is important that students who are wanting to be involved are aware of this and are prepared to commit.

## **THE SLAM**

After attending the workshops all teams will participate in 2 Semi Finals Heats each. The top 6 teams from those heats will progress to the 2020 WTFL Grand Slam.

**IMPORTANT:** For both returning and new teams. Every year we reshape and recharge the rules of competition better fit the needs of our dynamic community of young poets. PLEASE REFER to the official WTFL 2020 Rule Book so that you fully understand the competition.

# Dates

EVENT	DATE	TIME	VENUE
Teacher Information Evening	Wed 11th Mar	6:30-8:30pm	Youthline Ponsonby
NW & Central Registrations Close	Mon 4th May	5pm	
NW & Central Regional Heat	Sat 9th May	Heat 1: 10am-12:30pm Heat 2: 1:30 pm-4pm	TEPAC
South & East Registrations Close	Mon 11th May	5pm	
South & East Regional Heat	Sat 16th May	Heat 1: 10am-12pm Heat 2: 1pm-3pm	Mangere Central Community Hall
Advancing Teams Announced	Mon 20th May	10am	WTFL Facebook Page
Slam Camp	5th-7th June	Fri - Sun	Te Puea Marae
Workshop #1*	Sat 20th June	1-4pm	Youthline Manukau
Workshop #2	Sat 4th July	10am-4pm	TBC
Workshop #3	Sat 25th July	1-4pm	Youthline Manukau
Semi-Finals A	Sat 1st August	Heat 1: 10am-1pm Heat 2: 2pm-5pm	Auckland Live
Semi-Finals B	Sat 8th Aug	Heat 3: 10am-1pm Heat 4: 2pm-5pm	Auckland Live
Grand Slam	Sat 12th Sept	7-10pm	The Concert Chamber

# Contact Us

## WHO ARE WE?

Action Education is a non-profit organisation 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 youth workers, artists, poets, educators, and mentors that care about the community and drawing out the leadership potential in young people



ACTION EDUCATION



For all questions about WORD - The Front Line or Action Education, and for all booking inquiries please email us at [info@actioneducation.co.nz](mailto:info@actioneducation.co.nz)

Check out our website for more information about our organisation and what we do at [www.actioneducation.co.nz](http://www.actioneducation.co.nz)

You can also stay up to date with us at the following Facebook pages

- Action Education
- WORD - The Front Line
- South Auckland Poets Collective
- Stand Up Poetry Open Mic

### Action Education Inc.

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