

SLAM COVID-19
POETS AGAINST THE PANDEMIC
Submission Guidelines

This competition is open to all students who attend public, charter or private DC schools, and adult DC residents in the following categories:

Elementary Schools: K-5
Middle/High Schools: 6-12th Grades
Adults: 21 and over

Prizes for Slam Winners include:

Students:

1 st Place	\$500.00
2 nd Place	\$250.00
3 rd Place	\$150.00
Honorable Mention	\$ 50.00

Prizes for Slam Winners include:

Adults:

1 st Place	\$1,000.00
2 nd Place	\$ 500.00
3 rd Place	\$ 250.00

Contestants in the Slam Covid-19 contest will submit a video of an **original** poem not to exceed **3 minutes** in length that addresses the issues of **Covid-19** and its effects on you personally, the Black community in DC, and safety measures and prevention.

Information on Covid19 can be found at the DC Government website link: <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/>

Videos that contain accurate and factual information about Covid-19 have the best chance in the competition. Videos can be fun, sad, personal, reflective or political. While we are not trying to censor poets, we ask that you be aware that the Slam Covid-19 is competition that will be viewed widely by students and families.

Please read the accompanying press release for more information from the Black Coalition Against Covid-19 and important messages related to this effort.

Submission Guidelines:

1. For students attending DC Schools. Submit at the link below and include the following:

Name, Address, Grade

DC school you attend.

Upload your original video: <http://Blackcoalitionagainstcovid.org>

For adults. Submit at the link below and include:

Name, Address, Age

Upload your video to: <http://Blackcoalitionagainstcovid.org>

SLAM COVID-19 POETS AGAINST THE PANDEMIC

April 29, 2020 (Washington, DC): *(Black Coalition Against Covid 19)* Slam Covid-19 is a poetry slam event that unleashes the voices of DC's health and artistic communities to provide the information, education and inspiration to protect ourselves during this coronavirus pandemic.

"In this time of crisis, our community must come together in a city-wide effort to do all we can to save our lives and that of our family, friends and neighbors" said Reed Tuckson M.D. former Commissioner of Public Health for the District of Columbia. "Our poets and creative artists have their fingers on the pulse of our communities and they are often the most influential of the messengers who reflect and set the narratives for public conversation. I am so proud of these artists for accepting the call to fight for the survival of our communities and especially, the most vulnerable of our people."

"COVID 19 has magnified inequities that have existed for decades in our city and schools. Black youth, who are often unheard, unseen and unassisted have witnessed these inequities and learned to distrust the systems that sustain them" said Elizabeth Davis, Washington Teacher's Union President. "They are not surprised that in DC and most cities, the highest percentage of people who have died from COVID 19 are Black people. If we want to authentically engage them in confronting these inequities and dismantling systems of racism, then we must see, hear and assist them in becoming the game changers. "

While Covid 19 has affected all of Washington, DC, 79% of the deaths have been in the African American community. This pandemic has exposed the health and wealth disparities that have long persisted unabated in the Nation's Capital. As the city prepares to re-open we need to address the prophetic words of Dr. Martin Luther King: Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?

Slam Covid-19 will be a virtual Slam competition dedicated to addressing the fierce urgency of now. Over \$3,000 in prizes in three categories: Middle School (May 18th 4-6pm), High School (May 22nd 4-6pm) and Adult (May 25th 7-9pm). The event will be simulcasted on radio and social media. A combination of public voting and local judges will determine the results. Deadline for entries: May 10 (Submission guidelines at <http://Blackcoalitionagainstcovid.org>)