

Aug 13-20 Pittsfield, Mass.

wordxword FESTIVAL

Rules for the WordxWord Slam 2011

1. All poems must be of original construction by the performer. Clever parody and creative sampling are allowed. Covering and plagiarism are not.
2. No props, costumes, or musical instruments.
3. All poems should be under three minutes in length to avoid a time penalty. There is a ten-second grace period after which a half point is deducted from the poet's total score for every ten seconds over the grace period. The time starts at the discretion of the timekeeper as soon as the poet makes a "connection" with the audience, which CAN be before he or she utters a word. Introductions start the clock.
4. The two preliminary slams on Wednesday and Thursday will have eight poets each. They will be one round (i.e., one poem) and the names will be drawn from a hat. The top four highest-scoring poets from each preliminary slam will advance to the Seminal slam on Friday.
5. Poets who show up to compete on Wednesday who do not get picked will be automatically placed in the slam on Thursday if they show up again at the specified time. To take advantage of this "guaranteed" placement, these poets will have to read first, randomized with other poets in the same situation. If they would like to take their chances, they can choose not to go first and risk not being chosen at all. Again. So conceivably, if 8 poets do not get picked on Wednesday and all 8 of them show up again on Thursday, then they will be the poets in the slam on Thursday, and anyone showing up for the first time that night will be out of luck. All we can hope for is to make the slam as fair as life itself.
6. Life is not fair.
7. The Semifinal slam on Friday will also be 8 poets and one round, but the poem must be a different poem than the one the poet performed in preliminaries.
8. The order for the semifinal slam will not be random. The two fourth-place finishers will read first, followed by the third-place finishers, etc. Ties and assorted minutia of ordering will be determined by the emcee or bout manager without protest.
9. The top four poets from the Friday Semifinal will advance to the Saturday Final.
10. The Final will be two rounds (i.e. two poems), but the poems can be repeated from previous rounds.
11. The first round will be random, names drawn from a hat.
12. The last round will be high-to-low (highest scoring poet from round one goes first in round two).
13. The winners will be determined by highest cumulative score.