



# The University of the West Indies

## Faculty of Humanities and Education

### School of Education

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Dear Principal,

The School of Education, Mona Campus invites you to participate in our National Poetry Recitation Competition – 'Talk The Poem' which will take place between February – April 2016.

'Talk The Poem' (TTP) is for students between the ages of 13-18. The competition begins at the School level, then moves on to the County level where the three top students from each school will compete at the County level and concludes at the National level where all finalists will compete.

For the Talk the Poem competition, students will be asked to choose a total of three (3) poems from the TTP anthology: one (1) poem at the School level; that same poem, plus another at the County level; and those two poems, plus a final poem at the National level. Your school will be asked to host a mini-competition in **February 2016** in order to select your three top students. Schools will need to fill out and submit a registration form for these three students, as they prepare to enter the county competition. The registration cost for each student is: JA\$250.00. Registration closes on **February 29, 2016**. The County level competitions will take place during the week of **March 7-11, 2016** in Mandeville, Montego Bay and Kingston. The first three students at the County level will then move on to the National Finals, which will be held on **April 10, 2016** in the Multifunctional Room at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus.

So as to ensure efficiency and effective communication throughout the process of the competition, Team Leaders have been selected in each parish to act as mediators between the members of the Executive Committee of TTP and the participating schools. Team Leaders are teachers of English who are employed in various schools across the island. These Team Leaders have already participated in a special information session and can help to provide guidance and support with regard to the details and expectations of the competition. Heads of Department can opt to utilize the expertise of these team leaders to facilitate student participation in their schools or they can choose their own team of teachers to work with the students.

The TTP committee will also be hosting a one-day workshop in each county which is entitled: 'What happens when Poetry matters'. The workshop date for each county is:

Mandeville	-	Monday, January 25, 2016
Kingston	-	Wednesday, January 27, 2016
Montego Bay	-	Friday, January 29, 2016

This workshop will equip teachers with approaches and strategies for the teaching of poetry; techniques for helping students to voice poetry and practical methods for helping students to offer their interpretation of a poem through recitation. Schools will be asked to select two (2) teachers to attend the workshop being conducted in their county.

We are asking for your full support in sending your teachers to this event, as we are certain that the workshop will help to transform the teaching of Poetry in English classrooms at your school.

Further information on registration matters, access to the anthology and other details on the TTP competition and the Poetry workshop, can be found by clicking the 'Talk The Poem' Competition link on the School of Education's website at: <http://www.mona.uwi.edu/soe/>. Schools can also contact the Project Administrator, Ms. Althea Aikens at 927-2130 for information and assistance.

We look forward to your participation in this event.

Yours sincerely,

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Aisha T. Spencer, PhD  
Project Director, TTP