



# Benefits of Filming Students Reading Their Own Poetry

Dear Educator,

Thank you for your continued collaboration with The 7th Grade Poetry Foundation. **7GP now requires a filmed video recording of each winning poet reading his or her poem aloud.** The video brings the winner's words to life for an entirely new audience to appreciate.

Reading a poem out loud can help **identify opportunities for revision** such as rhythm challenges, variations in punctuation, wording or grammatical adjustments, or changes in the formatting of the poem that may involve line breaks. Filming captures those changes and leads the student toward an improved final draft.

The experience of sharing a video gives many poets an **enhanced sense of pride** and ownership in their work. The films are role models and incentives to future 7th grade students nationwide and provide visual proof that the published poems are indeed written by their peers.

For reluctant speakers, filming helps students **develop confidence** in their public speaking skills and self-esteem (*I did it!*). These films can also inspire other hesitant or soft-spoken students. Like the best speeches, practicing the reading and reviewing of several video attempts leads to a higher quality recording that will likely result in a well earned smile.

The recording will be shared on our website with the final text of the poem as well as on YouTube, TeacherTube and SchoolTube. These platforms allow the video to be **accessed and appreciated** in classrooms and households of other students worldwide.

Please inquire who may have access to a digital camera or camera-phone to help film the student's reading. Ask if they (or you) need assistance with the recording. The hero for this task could be the student, the parent/guardian, a teacher, the principal, or even a school board member. If you cannot find necessary recording equipment, 7GP is happy to help coordinate filming assistance. Contest document "Video Guidelines" discusses technical requirements of the video.

After filming the video, please submit the file online at [www.7gp.org/submit](http://www.7gp.org/submit).

Thank you again for your effort to support your students,

7GP

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IGNITE, WRITE, EXCITE, UNITE

If you have questions, please review FAQ on [7gp.org](http://7gp.org) or email [aaron@7gp.org](mailto:aaron@7gp.org).