

## Delaware Poetry Winner Competes on National Level -- May 16, 2006

Washington, D.C. -- The 2006 National Endowment for the Arts Delaware Poetry Out Loud State Champion, Simone Seal visited Washington D.C. today to compete in the National Finals at the Lincoln Theater. Simone Seal, who is a 12th grader at Padua Academy in Wilmington came to Washington with her family to perform three poems such as the 'Ballad of Birmingham' by Dudley Randall. Simone won \$200 and a trip to Washington by competing and winning the State title in Dover.

"I am delighted that through this contest, children are discovering the wonderful benefits of poetry and gaining a better understanding through memorizing and reciting the poems. We are proud to have Simone represent Delaware here in D.C. for the National Finals and I'm confident that her thorough understanding of the poetry will take her far in the contest!," Castle said

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the Poetry Foundation sponsor the National Finals of Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest, while the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation are responsible for administering the finals. According to the NEA, the Poetry Out Loud program encourages high school students to become familiar with poetry through memorization, performance, and competition. Judges evaluate each student performance on criteria such as volume, presence, evidence of understanding, level of difficulty, and accuracy. Students have prepared to perform three poems featured in the Poetry Out Loud print and online anthologies.