



International Teaching Aid  
**Competition 2023**

Reconnoitering Innovative Ideas in Postnormal Times

**iTAC**

**2023**

**iTAC 2023**  
**INTERNATIONAL TEACHING AID COMPETITION**  
**E-PROCEEDINGS**

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## **PREFACE**

iTAC or International Teaching Aid Competition 2023 was a venue for academicians, researchers, industries, junior and young inventors to showcase their innovative ideas not only in the teaching and learning sphere but also in other numerous disciplines of study. This competition was organised by the Special Interest Group, Public Interest Centre of Excellence (SIG PICE) UiTM Kedah Branch, Malaysia. Its main aim was to promote the production of innovative ideas among academicians, students and also the public at large.

In accordance with the theme "Reconnoitering Innovative Ideas in Post-normal Times", the development of novel ideas from the perspectives of interdisciplinary innovations is more compelling today, especially in the post-covid 19 times. Post-pandemic initiatives are the most relevant in the current world to adapt to new ways of doing things and all these surely require networking and collaboration. Rising to the occasion, iTAC 2023 has managed to attract more than 267 participations for all categories. The staggering number of submissions has proven the relevance of this competition to the academic world and beyond in urging the culture of innovating ideas.

iTAC 2023 committee would like to thank all creative participants for showcasing their innovative ideas with us. As expected in any competition, there will be those who win and those who lose. Congratulations to all the award recipients (Diamond, Gold, Silver and Bronze) for their winning entries. Those who did not make the cut this year can always improve and join us again later.

It is hoped that iTAC 2023 has been a worthy platform for all participating innovators who have shown ingenious efforts in their products and ideas. This compilation of extended abstracts published as iTAC 2023 E-Proceedings contains insights into what current researchers, both experienced and novice, find important and relevant in the post-normal times.

Best regards,

**iTAC 2023 Committee**  
**Special Interest Group, Public Interest Centre of Excellence (SIG PICE)**  
**UiTM Kedah Branch**  
**Malaysia**

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## **POETRY OUT LOUD: FOSTERING ESL LEARNERS PUBLIC SPEAKING SKILL**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The prospect of standing in front of peers and holding forth on an academic topic for longer than two seconds is frightening to many. When it comes to oral presentations, many of the students seem to have public speaking anxiety. PSA can negatively affect grades and attendance and can have quelling effects on student participation and motivation. Yet, speaking well in public is an indispensable skill. Students who are fluent tend to excel at extracurricular activities, athletics, and social clubs, and they get better jobs opportunities. In college and in the workplace, individual and group presentations have become rigor. So, effective public speaking is something the researchers try to prioritize with students, despite occasional shrieks of terror. To increase confidence and fluency, Poetry out Loud is an innovation with contemporary poetry for the young learners. The innovation consists of two interventions with ESL learners which were firstly compilation of poetry called “The Colors of Love” which was introduced to have students start by reading some poems together as a class. Then students were introduced to a poetry website “Hello Poetry” to choose a poem that they enjoy and then practice reading their poems aloud in pairs, experimenting with expression, volume, and speed. Once students have one more round of practice, the students share their poems aloud with the class using creative videos. A focused group interview revealed that by giving students a chance to read poems out loud together as a class and to each other helped to improve students' confidence and oral language skills, as well as their reading fluency.

**Keywords:** public speaking anxiety, speaking confidence, contemporary poetry, creative videos

## INTRODUCTION

Speaking well in public is an indispensable skill. Speaking in public may be an uncomfortable and distressing experience for college and university students. Although public speaking may make us all feel this way, public speaking skills in our daily life is still something that we need throughout our lives and careers (Férez Mora et al., 2020). Moreover, students who speak well tend to excel at extracurricular activities, athletics, and social clubs, and they get better job opportunities. (Boyce et al.) Nowadays in college and in the workplace, individual and group presentations have become mandatory. One benefit which demonstrates the importance of public speaking among learners is that it helps them face their fears. The repeated practice of speaking in front of a large audience is how to develop confidence in public speaking. A study by North Carolina Cooperative Extension of people aged 9 to 18 who participated in a public speaking program found that public speaking increases self-confidence. In this project, effective public speaking is something the researchers try to prioritize with students, despite their fear. Another study shows that 75% of students admitted their fear of public speaking. 95% of them agreed that if proper counseling, instruction, and coaching are provided, this fear can be overcome. In agreement with the research results, (Asine, 2022) stated that people are often afraid to speak in front of a group, but they can overcome those fears by practicing and getting comfortable with public speaking. Even with much evidence that proved ‘practice makes perfect’ circumstances, unfortunately most schools do not teach public speaking to students. Many parents also believe that public speaking skills are not important. School principals and parents should realize that dismissing public speaking skills as unimportant is not a clever idea as they are very crucial for their children’s success especially when these children venture into tertiary education and later when they join the workforce. Figure 1 shows the essential of Public Speaking Skill.



**Figure 1.** The Importance of Public Speaking Skills

The figure describes public speaking which is a professional skill and before a person can stand up confidently on a podium facing the audience, practice is needed to overcome nervousness and fear. It presents seven criteria that individuals should consider when engaging in public speaking. The criteria are Professional, Skill, Practice Podium, Gestures, Nervous and Audience.

Poetry Out Loud builds on the recent resurgence of poetry as an oral art form, as demonstrated by the slam poetry movement and the immense popularity of rap music among our youth. The program encourages students, through the study of poetry, to master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and internalize learner's rich literary heritage. The researchers designed an educational program that encourages the study of great poetry by offering free educational materials and a dynamic inter class recitation competition. This program helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about literary history and contemporary life. While the value and importance of helping adolescents learn the art of public speaking is clear, it can be a difficult subject to teach. This project justifies how public speaking skills can be interwoven with poetry analysis by participating in the Poetry Out Loud program. In the current project, the researchers introduced Poetry Out Loud activities to ESL Diploma students studying a language proficiency course in a public university.

## **PROBLEM STATEMENT**

When it comes to oral presentations, many of our students seem to have public speaking anxiety (PSA), a communication-based agony resulting in physiological arousal (e.g., increased heart rate, trembling and negative self-esteem). PSA can negatively affect grades and attendance and can have quelling effects on student participation and motivation. The prospect of standing in front of peers and holding forth on an academic topic for longer than two seconds is frightening to many students especially in English language classrooms. However, while speaking is considered essential, it tends to get ignored in the full to overflowing language arts curriculum (Boyce et al.; "Common Core"). Therefore, the purpose of this project is to popularize poetry recitation and to reduce students' fear of public speaking through poetry out loud activities among ESL students in the classrooms.

## **OBJECTIVES OF USING POETRY IN ESL CLASSROOM**

The objectives are as the followings:

1. To promote poetry recitation in ESL classroom as a way to practice enunciation and intonation.
2. To improve vocabulary and build self-confidence.
3. To reduce fear of public speaking.

The study also addressed these Research Questions

1. Will Poetry out loud activity help you to improve your speaking skill?
2. Will Poetry Out Loud activity help you to improve your pronunciation and intonation?
3. Will Poetry Out Loud improve your vocabulary and build your confidence?

## **POETRY OUT LOUD ACTIVITIES**

POETRY OUT LOUD is an educational program that encourages the study of great poetry by offering free educational materials and a dynamic recitation among the undergraduates' students in a local university. It is an incredible program initiated by the lecturer to promote poetry recitation to students which helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about literary history and contemporary life.

The Stages to Public Speaking through Poetry Out Loud Activities

Poetry Out Loud, is a class project that requires students to read and recite poems. There are a few stages to Poetry Out Loud Activities.

### **STAGE 1**

Students trek down to the lecturer's poetry website called Hello Poetry to have a look at the anthology of poems published online. <https://helloworldpoetry.com/sharina-saad/> to select a poem of at least 100 words that elicits an emotional response.

### **STAGE 2**

Students were also given an option to search for a poem from a poetry book written by their lecturer entitled: From The Heart The Colors of Love.

### **STAGE 3**

Students generally have two weeks to work on practicing and video recording their poems presentation on their own time.

### **STAGE 4**

During these weeks, the in- class curriculum is a mix of poetry analysis and the development of public speaking skills.

### **STAGE 5**

The speech lessons require students to work in small groups and to make presentations.

### **STAGE 6**

The lecturer offers feedback to students on the quality of their physical presence, voice, pronunciation, rate of speech, and pacing skills.

**STAGE 7**

Top 5 presenters will be announced as best poem recitation award.

**STAGE 8**

Students are encouraged to give feedback on their POL project in a survey form given.

**THE OUTCOME OF POETRY OUT LOUD ACTIVITIES (SAMPLE VIDEOS)**

Students were able to recite the poems clearly and confidently. Not only physical, but the students rehearsed, presented, and recorded their poem recital virtually. According to Simcecek and Rumbold (2016) , they agreed with the study by Jacquelyn Bessell and Patricia Riddell which focus on the memorisation process itself. When students recited the poem, they incorporated the bodily movement in the memorisation of poetry. This performing physical actions in learning the lines of a poem have assisted students to recall of those lines repeatedly. This has forced the students to engage with poetry and it had "heighten the internalising of the poem, and thus the ability to recite the work accurately".

**Poem Recitation Video 1**  
Our Memories



**Poem Recitation Video 2**  
Internet Lover



**Poem Recitation Video 3**  
Instant Noodles Love



**Poem Recitation Video 4**  
If Bed Could Talk

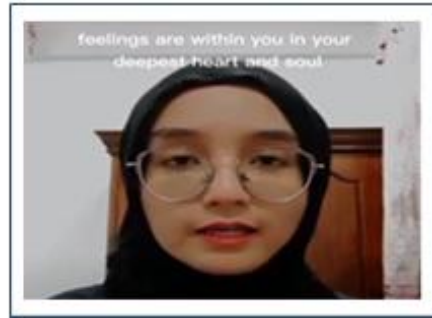




**Poem Recitation Video 5**  
I Wish



**Poem Recitation Video 6**  
Feelings



**Poem Recitation Video 7**  
Angel By the Sea



**STUDENT'S FEEDBACK**

At the end of the project, students answered a short survey consisting of three open ended questions.

RQ 1 - Will Poetry out loud activity help you to improve your speaking skill?

The themes minded from the survey are:

Improve speaking skills  
Pronunciation improvement  
Intonation practice  
Vocabulary enhancement  
Confidence building  
Exploration of vocal range

Public speaking development  
Sense of emotions and meaning  
Exposure to new words  
Stepping out of comfort zone  
Body language and relaxation

The research question, "Will Poetry Out Loud activity help you improve your speaking skills?" focuses on the potential benefits of participating in Poetry Out Loud activities. Based on the derived themes.

Thus, engaging in Poetry Out Loud activities can be an effective means of enhancing various aspects of speaking skills and personal growth. This activity encompasses several elements, such as pronunciation improvement, intonation practice, vocabulary enhancement, confidence building, exploration of vocal range, public speaking development, sense of emotions and meaning, exposure to new words, stepping out of comfort zones, and understanding body language and relaxation techniques. By participating in Poetry Out Loud activities, individuals can experience improvements in these areas, leading to a more well-rounded and polished speaking ability. This conclusion suggests that Poetry Out Loud can be a valuable tool for individuals seeking to develop and refine their speaking skills.

RQ 2 - Will Poetry out loud activity help you to improve your pronunciation and intonation?

The themes:

- Enjoyable activity
- Pronunciation
- Intonation
- Confidence building

The incorporation of poetry into language learning has been found to offer a comprehensive approach to enhancing pronunciation, intonation, and confidence. These findings collectively suggest that poetry out loud activities provide a valuable tool for learners to refine their pronunciation, intonation, and ultimately build confidence in expressing themselves in the target language.

RQ 3 - Will Poetry Out Loud improve your vocabulary and build your confidence?

The themes:

- Vocabulary Improvement
- Confidence Building

Based on the responses provided by the students, it is evident that Poetry Out Loud has a positive impact on both vocabulary improvement and confidence building. These responses collectively demonstrate the correlation between Poetry Out Loud and language skills, as well as the role it plays in fostering self-assurance. By engaging in Poetry Out Loud, students not only expand their vocabulary repertoire but also develop the necessary confidence to communicate effectively in public settings.

### **USEFULNESS AND ADVANTAGES OF POETRY OUT LOUD ACTIVITIES**

Poetry is a form of literature that uses beauty, strong patterns of sounds, words and qualities of language. It gives delight to the students in a classroom with its rhythm, rhyme scheme and musicality. A teacher can motivate the students by using poems and instill in them the confidence to speak English better. Through Poetry out Loud activity, oral communication of students can be enhanced effectively.

1. Poetry differs in visual form from prose. It commonly appears as a sequence of sentences with paragraphs.
2. 2. It relies on the sound of the spoken language.
3. 3. It relies on figurative language.
4. 4. It can tell a story, describe an object or situation, narrate an event or simply express feelings.
5. 5. Whatever the substance of the remarks and the ultimate message, poetry is characterized by linguistic elements that go beyond standard sentence structure.
6. 6. Above all, poetry involves aspects of language that appeal to and are communicated by sound and light

### **NOVELTY**

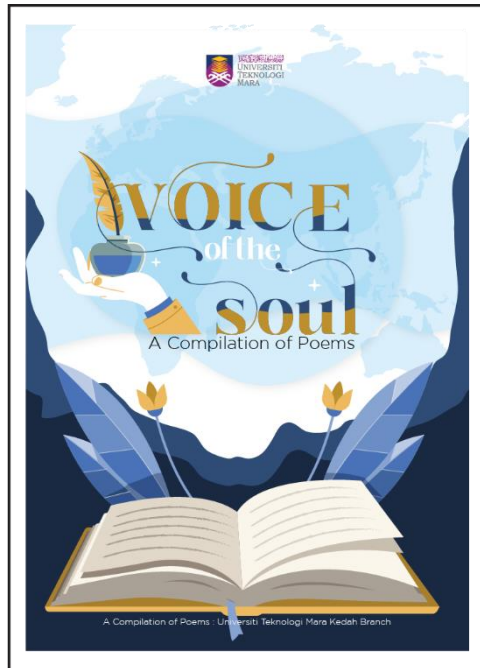
Poetry Out Loud is a great and practical place to start working toward developing public speaking activities within the English curriculum. If ESL teachers can get the majority of students excited about poetry and public speaking all in one shot, that is a significant accomplishment.

### **COMMERCIALIZATION POTENTIAL**

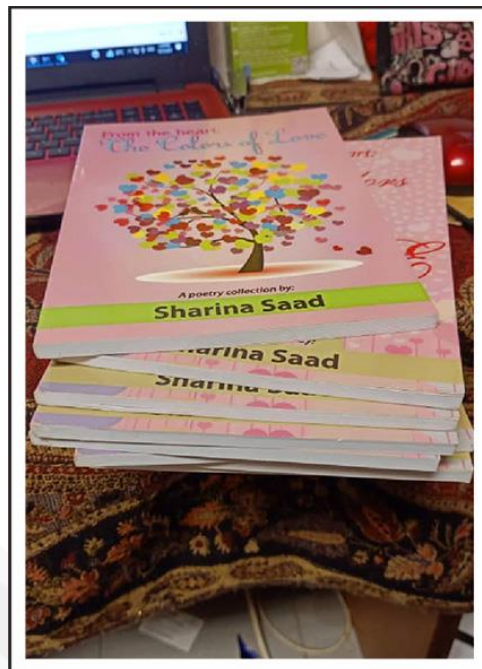
POETRY OUT LOUD is an innovative ESL language teaching tool is equipped with POL activities, Hello Poetry website and the poetry book entitled The Colors of Love. Our products have been commercialized via

## 1. POETRY BOOKS:

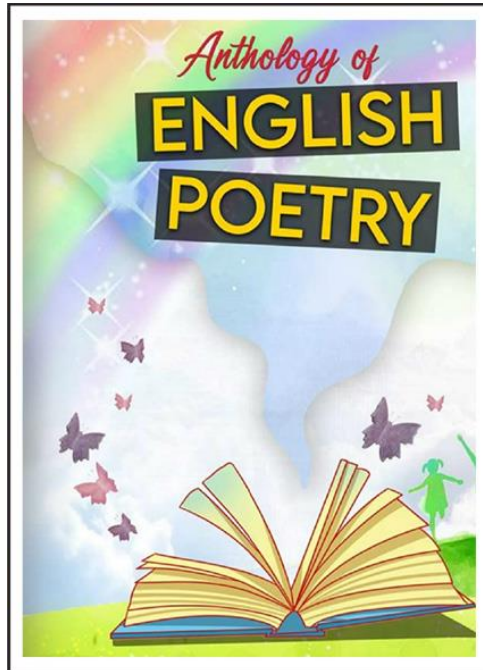
The books have been sold to students, lecturers, and poetry lovers for over 50 units.



**Figure 2.** Voice of The Soul



**Figure 3.** The Colors of Love



**Figure 4.** The Anthology of English Poetry

## 2. WEBSITE:

The HELLO Poetry website is easy to access to students and lecturers.  
<https://hellopoetry.com/sharina-saad/>





Figure 5. Hello Poetry Interface

### 3. SPECIAL POETRY OUT LOUD TRAINING PACKAGE:

Our product could offer special training packages to out potential clients. The training packages are available in the form of onsite or online packages.

- Training session face-to-face to poetry lovers, schoolteachers, academicians, and students from private and public schools.
- Training session online (Webinar) to poetry lovers, schoolteachers, academicians, and students from private and public schools.
- Training via YouTube channel to poetry lovers, schoolteachers, academicians, and students from private and public schools.
- Potential clients can choose the packages - two hours, or full day or half day package.



Figure 6. Webinar Series

## CONCLUSION

Out loud poetry is the tool to help students achieve their language proficiency and build confidence to face the audience. It allows teachers to use innovative and effective methods and activities, provides an interactive circumstance which can prove communication competence of the learners.

Based on the results, it is evident that engaging in Poetry Out Loud activities can have a profound impact on various aspects of language learning and personal growth. The incorporation of poetry into language learning provides a comprehensive approach to enhancing pronunciation, intonation, and confidence. By reciting and performing poems, learners are actively practicing and refining their pronunciation skills, paying close attention to the sounds and rhythms of words. This heightened focus on pronunciation not only improves the clarity of their speech but also helps them develop a more natural and fluent delivery.

Furthermore, Poetry Out Loud activities offer ample opportunities for learners to practice intonation and explore the expressive potential of their voices. By reciting poems with different moods, themes, and tones, learners can experiment with varying intonation patterns, emphasizing certain words or phrases to convey emotions and meaning. This practice not only enhances their ability to interpret and convey the intended emotions of a piece of writing but also allows them to develop a deeper understanding of the power of intonation in effective communication.

Moreover, Poetry Out Loud serves as a catalyst for vocabulary enhancement and confidence building. Through the exposure to a wide range of poems, learners are introduced to new words, idiomatic expressions, and linguistic nuances. The act of memorizing and performing these poems encourages learners to delve into the meanings and contexts of unfamiliar words, expanding their vocabulary repertoire. Additionally, the process of standing in front of an audience and delivering a poem helps learners build confidence in public speaking, as they overcome stage fright, develop effective body language, and learn to captivate and engage their listeners.

In conclusion, Poetry Out Loud activities offer a valuable and multifaceted approach to improving speaking skills and fostering personal growth. Through the practice of pronunciation, intonation, vocabulary expansion, and the development of confidence, learners can experience a holistic transformation in their speaking abilities. By actively engaging with poetry, learners are exposed to a rich and expressive language medium, enabling them to refine their pronunciation, understand the power of intonation, expand their vocabulary, and develop the confidence to communicate effectively. Thus, incorporating Poetry Out Loud activities into language learning can greatly benefit individuals seeking to enhance their speaking skills and overall communication proficiency.

*“Everything becomes a little different as soon as it is spoken out loud”*

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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<https://hellopoetry.com/sharina-saad/>





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