

What is the BlackBerry Peach Prize?

- Spoken Word Poetry
 - 1st -- \$1000
 - 2nd -- \$500
 - 3rd -- \$250
 - Up to 7 HMs
- 1st, 2nd, 3rd Place receive
 - Publication of chapbook with the 12 winning poems
 - 25 copies to each winner, book release at NFSPS
 - Videos of winning performances on YouTube
 - 1st Place receives \$300 stipend to NFSPS
 - Winners receive complimentary registration fees, + 1-year membership in their local poetry society
- HMs will be listed in the chapbook

How Do I Enter?

- Fee
 - \$10 members
 - \$15 non-members
 - \$10 under 21
- Submission period January 1-March 15
- Submit 4 recorded poems
- All submissions through Submittable

Judging

- Phase 1
 - Committee reviews for compliance with guidelines and over all quality
- Phase 2
 - Up to 100 entries sent to independent judge
 - Judging will include factors like enunciation, clarity, speed, suitability of tone to text

Guidelines

- <https://www.nfsps.com/BBP3Guidelines.html>
- Original work
- No ID in the audio file or in the transcript (no name, etc.)
- You will need:
 - An online application form (in Submittable)
 - An audio recording of your poems
 - A written transcript
- Be sure audio and written poems are on your computer before you begin submission, because you need to upload them at the same time
- You cannot change files after you have submitted them

Audio Files

- ONE RECORDING for all four poems
- **.mp3 or .WAV format**
- 3 minute limit for each poem
- 20 seconds between poems
- Voice only, no music, no percussion
- No video

Your recording will be a maximum of 13 minutes 30 seconds long, including a few seconds before the first poem and after the last poem.

What do I use to record?



Do I record all 4 at once? Or one at a time?

If 4 at once, can I edit them?

If one at a time, how do I merge them together?

How do I convert the files once I'm done?

How do I Record Audio?

- On a Windows PC – Voice Recorder
- On a Mac – Voice Memos
- On an Apple iPhone/iPad – Voice Memos
- On an Android phone/tablet – Voice Recorder



The majority of these programs/apps will give you a file in .m4a format.

Your audio file will need to be converted to get the necessary format for BBP submittal.

“Trim” on many of these PC/tablet editors means you are selecting material in the middle of the file. You cannot remove a mistake in the middle of the file.



Do I Record All 4 at Once or Individually?

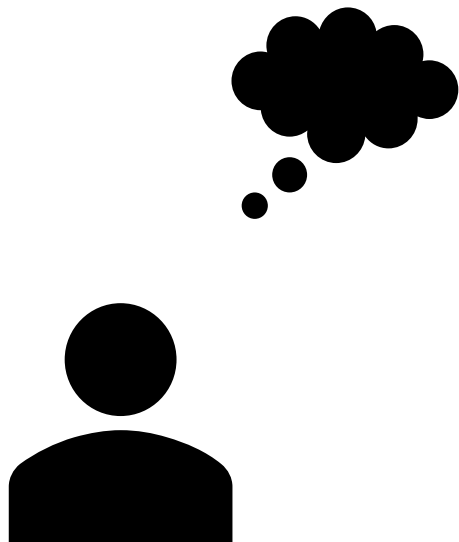
- All at once?
 - If you are tech limited, but confident in reading ability
 - Practice Practice Practice
 - Remember you have limited editing ability on home software
 - If you download software, you have more options
- Individually?
 - Much more flexibility
 - stop and start
 - Re-record
 - REQUIRES THAT YOU USE AN EDITOR
 - Use the “final” file of each poem to merge into the BBP submission

If you download an editor (like Audacity) or use the web-based editors, you can do all file conversions there.

Always have a few seconds before and after your first and last recording. You don't want the recorder to cut you off.

Reading Format

- *Turn recorder on*
- *Pause 5-10 seconds*
- **Poem # 1, Blue Stars**
- *Pause 2-3 seconds*
- **Read Poem**
- *Pause 20 Seconds*
- *Turn recorder off*



When you merge files, you can then trim the time between the poems down to about 20 seconds.

Free Download -- Audacity



The image shows the Audacity website header and a screenshot of the software interface. The website header features the Audacity logo (a pair of headphones with a flame) and the text "Audacity®". Below the logo is a navigation menu with links: HOME, ABOUT, DOWNLOAD, HELP, CONTACT, GET INVOLVED, DONATE, and COPYRIGHT. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main content area of the website has a blue background with the text "Free, open source, cross-platform audio software". Below this text is a description: "Audacity is an easy-to-use, multi-track audio editor and recorder for Windows, macOS, GNU/Linux and other operating systems. Developed by a group of volunteers as open source." To the right of the text is a screenshot of the Audacity software interface. The interface shows a multi-track audio editor with a timeline at the top, a transport control bar, and several tracks. The tracks include "Audio Track" (Stereo, 44100Hz, 32-bit float) and "Label Track" (Track 1 and Track 2). The software is running on a Windows operating system, as indicated by the "Concerta" window title.

- Freeware
- Record and edit all audio files on your PC
- Merge/join audio files
- Convert to .mp3 or .WAV

New Information!!!



Many thanks to Lisa Kamolnick for these suggestions!!!



Other “common” programs you can use for recording:

iMovie

Garage Band

Zoom (record feature – audio only)



You may be able to select .mp3 or .WAV, or you may need to use a converter (depends on the program)

Online (Web-based Editors)

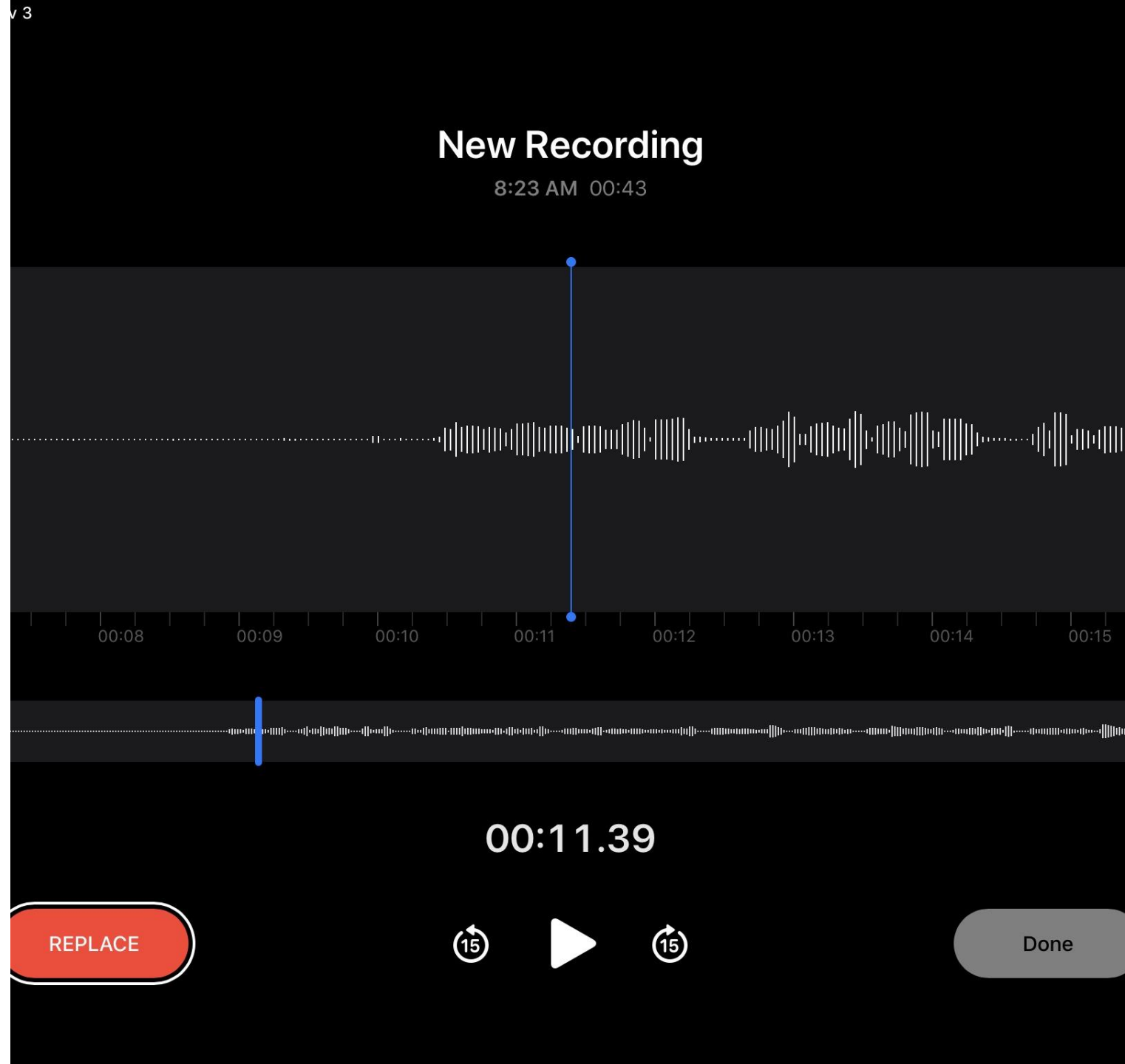
- Two examples:
 - bearaudio
 - Audio Editor
- Freeware, upload files, edit, merge, convert

The screenshot shows the bearaudio website. The header includes the logo and navigation links: Voice Recorder, m4a to mp3, audio converter, video converter, More Tools, Login, and Language. A search bar contains 'sound editor', 'audio mixing', 'mp3 audio editor', 'mp3 cutter', and 'audio mixer'. The main content area features the title 'Online MP3 Cutter & Audio Trimmer' and a description: 'A free online MP3 cutter, you can cut, crop, merge, and split your audio files directly in the browser. There is no need to install other software or upload audio files to the server. You can record your voice and then edit it. You can also open local audio files. You can also open web files in URL format. This site also contains some free audio material libraries without copyright. After editing, you can save the audio in the format you need, including MP3, WAV, M4R, AAC, etc.' A 'Try free today' offer is visible, along with a blue 'OPEN' button. The footer contains a toolbar with icons for Open, Add to, Undo, Redo, Copy, Paste, Cut, Crop, Delete, Restore, Select all, Zoom in Selection, and Show all.

The screenshot shows the Audio Editor website. The header includes the logo and navigation links: Home, Cut trim audio, Merge Audio, Record Audio. The main content area features the title 'Merge Audio' and a large dashed box for file upload with the text 'Drag & drop files here ... (or click to select files)'. A 'Browse ...' button is located at the bottom right. The footer contains a 'Select files...' label.

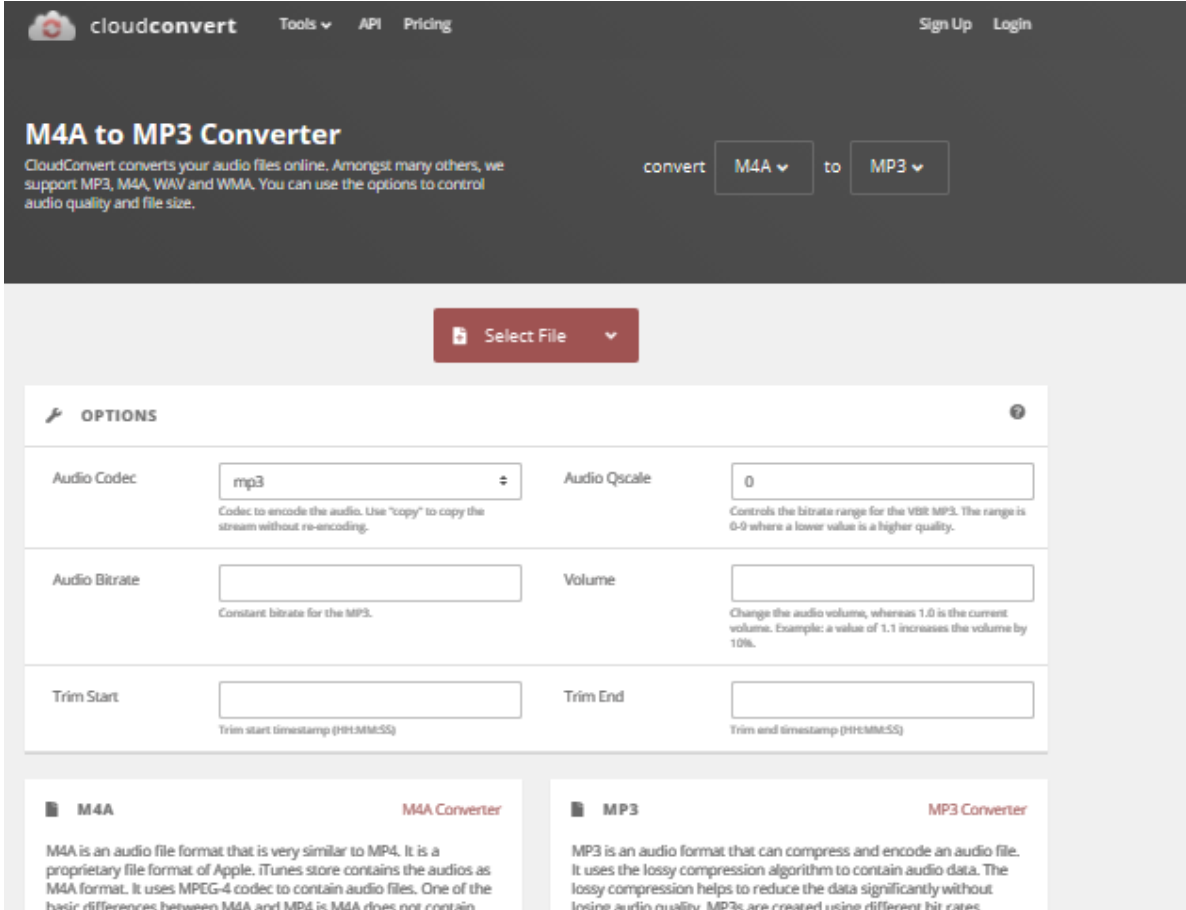
Remember...

- Leave “dead air” before and after your poem.
- This will help you “merge” the files together.
- Remember many of these editors were made for DJs to mix music, so there are a lot of special features you won’t be using.



For Those Brave Souls

- If you want to record all 4 at once, never edit, and just convert straight from your PC/Mac or other device
- CloudConverter or other web-based converter
- Up to 25 conversions per day are free
- You will need to select some options



The screenshot shows the CloudConvert website interface for converting M4A to MP3. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the CloudConvert logo, links for Tools, API, and Pricing, and buttons for Sign Up and Login. The main heading is "M4A to MP3 Converter". Below the heading, there is a "convert" button with dropdown menus for "M4A" and "MP3". A "Select File" button is prominently displayed in the center. Below this is an "OPTIONS" section with several input fields: "Audio Codec" (set to mp3), "Audio Qscale" (set to 0), "Audio Bitrate", "Volume", "Trim Start", and "Trim End". Each field has a small explanatory text below it. At the bottom, there are two columns of information: "M4A" and "MP3", each with a brief description of the format.

cloudconvert Tools API Pricing Sign Up Login

M4A to MP3 Converter

CloudConvert converts your audio files online. Amongst many others, we support MP3, M4A, WAV and WMA. You can use the options to control audio quality and file size.

convert M4A to MP3

Select File

OPTIONS

Audio Codec mp3
Codec to encode the audio. Use "copy" to copy the stream without re-encoding.

Audio Qscale 0
Controls the bitrate range for the VBR MP3. The range is 0-9 where a lower value is a higher quality.

Audio Bitrate
Constant bitrate for the MP3.

Volume
Change the audio volume, whereas 1.0 is the current volume. Example: a value of 1.1 increases the volume by 10%.

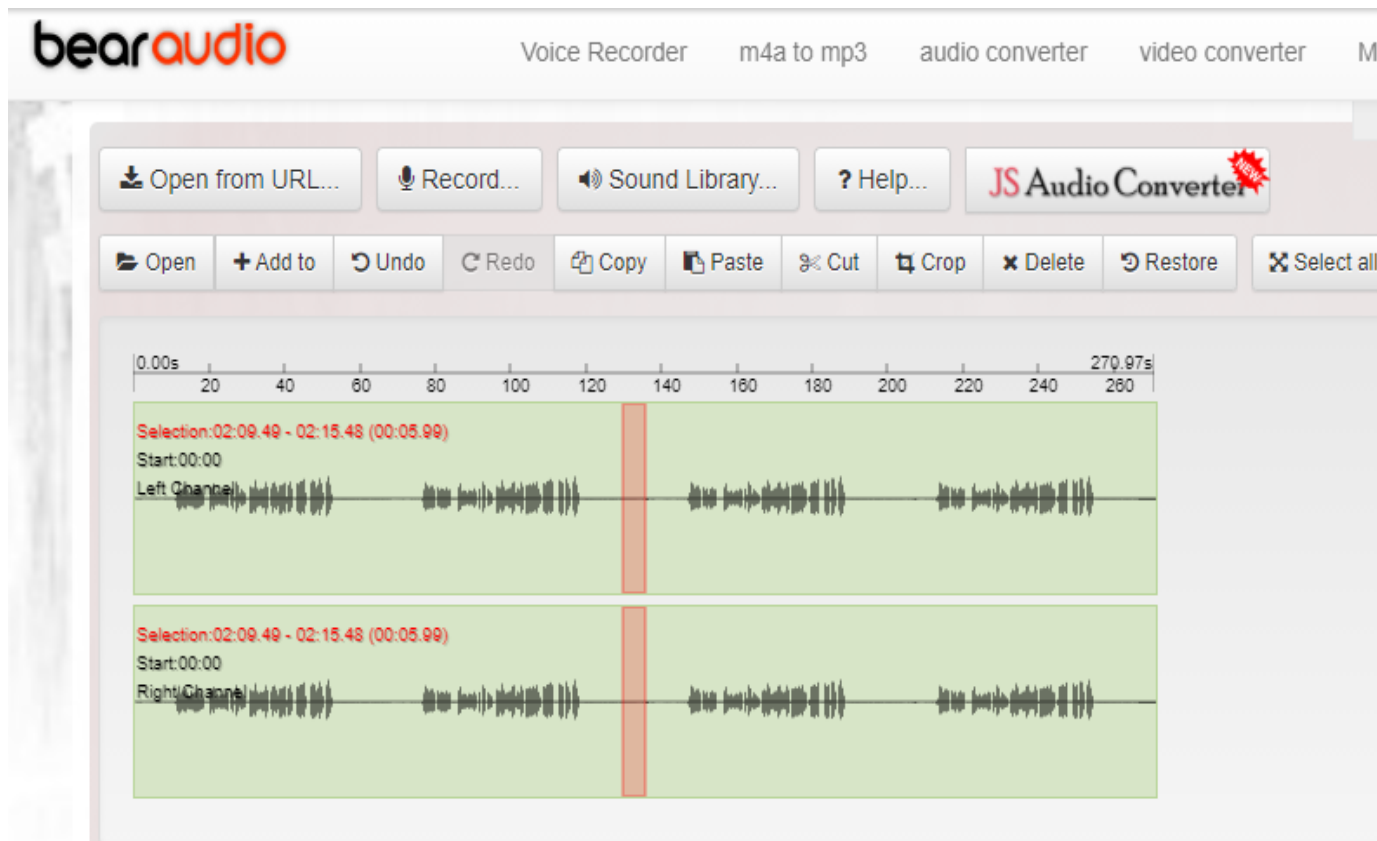
Trim Start
Trim start timestamp (HH:MM:SS)

Trim End
Trim end timestamp (HH:MM:SS)

M4A M4A Converter
M4A is an audio file format that is very similar to MP4. It is a proprietary file format of Apple. iTunes store contains the audios as M4A format. It uses MPEG-4 codec to contain audio files. One of the major differences between M4A and MP4 is M4A does not contain

MP3 MP3 Converter
MP3 is an audio format that can compress and encode an audio file. It uses the lossy compression algorithm to contain audio data. The lossy compression helps to reduce the data significantly without losing audio quality. MP3s are created using different bit rates

A Few Observations



- I “test drove” this with bearaudio
- Easy to use, BUT
 - There’s a process unique to each program/website
 - For bearaudio, I needed to convert to .mp3 first (JS Audio Converter)
 - You need to watch your file names AND where they are saving/downloading
 - Once you are in the editor, you can delete “extra time”, move poems, listen to files, etc., and then save.

Lori's Suggestions



- Start experimenting with audio files **now**
 - Figure out how to record voice
 - Figure out what program/app works for you
 - Figure out where the files are saved
 - Figure out how the conversions are worked
 - Figure out how to merge files
- THEN, when you finally want to record BlackBerry Peach files, you will be comfortable with the technology

Don't Forget the Written Transcript

- Poems must be in the order that they occur on the audio file
- Title each poem
- Accepted formats:
 - Microsoft Word
 - Adobe PDF
- One poem per page
 - If poem is long, extend onto second page, do not place into a second column

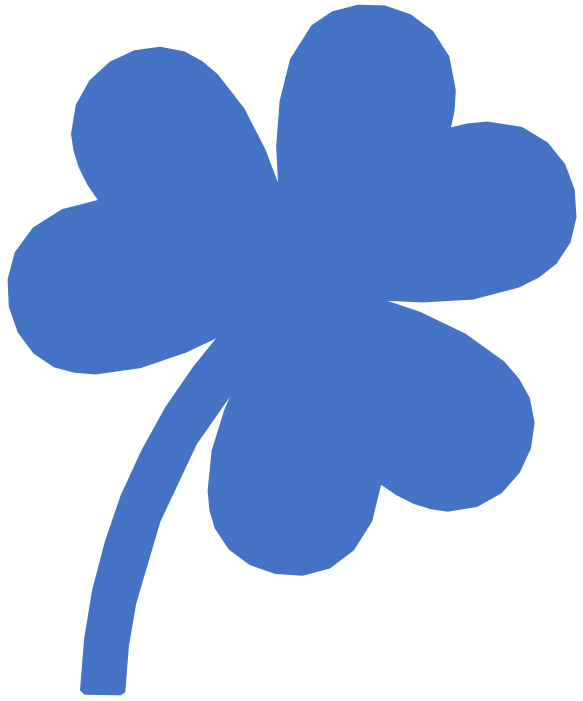
Written Transcript (cont.)

- Accepted fonts and spacing
 - 12-point Times New Roman or similar type, black ink
 - Colored text and script, fancy, or unusual fonts not accepted
 - Single space
 - Start lines at the left margin unless you are **clearly** using spacing as a poetic device
 - Page break between each poem
 - Page number in lower right corner



Other Info

- Do not include dedications, acknowledgements, cover letters, biographical information in the submittal
- Any profanity must be necessary to the literary integrity of the poem
- “The NFSPS will not give prizes for, nor publish, work that perpetuates derogatory stereotypes. Nor will it accept work that is obscene, prurient or sexually graphic, hate-mongering, or abusive of any social, racial, ethnic, religious, or gender group.”



GOOD LUCK!!!