

University of Glasgow

Words of WWI Poetry Competition


Intergenerational Vortex: Unearthing the Memories and Tremors of WWI



**“This is the way the world ends. Not with a bang, but a whimper.”
-T.S. Eliot**

On November 11, 1918, the “War to End All Wars” finally ceased, resulting in over 37 million civilian and military casualties—yet its extensive repercussions affected the world long after. The 'Words of WW1' aims to create a series of videos which showcasing poetry by soldiers on all sides of the Western Front. By filming at the modern day remnants of WW1 sites, we hope to convey the individual experiences of soldiers, providing a personal impression of the conflict. We invite our viewers to commemorate, empathize and identify with these men and learn from voices long gone. We hope to expand interest in WW1 among a vast audience, disseminating our content through international and local media groups at this opportune time - the centennial of 1918.

Because history occurs as a vortex, with events and memories spiraling and refracting throughout generations, one of the selected poem will not be by a war poet but by someone today. You are invited to consider how the trauma and cataclysms of the past continue to shape how people think and behave--how individuals, groups, and societies interact and communicate about the Great War. Whether you have a personal connection to the war or connect indirectly to its legacies and burdens, we invite you to create a poetic piece relating to the themes and events of WWI 100 years later.



The poem is open to students from any discipline from the University of Glasgow. The winner will be invited to join the trip and, if so desired, can narrate the poem. Otherwise one of our dedicated orators can recite it for them.

Poems could explore but are not limited to:

- ❖ Silence between and among generations
- ❖ Conflicted ties and relationships
- ❖ Reconnections to the past
- ❖ Complicity in memories
- ❖ Changed roles of gender and suffrage
- ❖ Thresholds to an accelerated world

Key Regulations:

- ❖ Written in English
- ❖ No hard profanity
- ❖ Appropriate for a short video
- ❖ Typed PDF format
- ❖ Minimum of two minutes and max of five minutes length when read aloud

Suggestions:

- ❖ Consider including a strong rhythm and cadence to make it more natural for reading
- ❖ Reading your poem out loud before submitting is **STRONGLY** encouraged
- ❖ Open to rhymed or unrhymed verse

Important Dates:

- ❖ Submit your poem to ww1poetryteam@gmail.com by **March 5, 2018**