



Lyrically Inclined

Poetry Slams are the spoken word sensation taking the nation. The poetry slam was invented in the 1980's by a construction worker named Marc "So What" Smith. Legend has it that Poetry Slams began as a way to get feedback from drunk friends. Legend also has it that Marc Smith was bored with traditional poetry readings and wanted to give the show back to the audience. Either way, the audience ended up with judging cards and instructions to give scores from 1-10. Poets had three minutes to deliver an original piece of poetry without props or any other kind of assistance.

Today, poetry slams are featured in most major cities and some minor ones. There are youth slams, college slams, national slams, team slams, individual slams, Haiku slams, dirty slams and dozens of other kinds of slams. Lyrically Inclined (LI) is the student organization devoted to bring slam poetry to Cornell.

According to the Constitution, "the purpose of Lyrically Inclined is to educate students as to what slam poetry is through workshops, slams, jams, screenings, competing in slam competitions, and guest performances." Throughout this year, the group has accomplished this by bringing numerous visiting poets such as Seth Walker and the Sage on Fire Tour.

Within the group, LI works on writing and performing poetry in preparation for bi-annual the Scream Out Ur Loud. Goals for next year include fashioning a team to compete in the national college slam circuit. LI meets Wednesdays at 6:30 in Stockholm in the Commons.



Lyrically Inclined's E-Board Profile

Name: Christina Jones

Hometown: River Grove, IL

Major: English, Creative Writing
Concentration; Music Minor

Year: 2013

Hobbies/Interest: Spending time with friends, writing, singing, reading, slam poetry and foreign films

What do you like about Cornell? I originally came to Cornell because of One Course at a Time. I love the Music department. I loved that there was a slam poetry team. I loved Mount Vernon. I think that Cornell has a great environment.

Activities: Performance Coach for Lyrically Inclined, Alpha Sigma Pi (Arrows), Concert and Chamber Choirs,

Future Plans: I plan to live in a cardboard box on a street corner in New York with my dearest friend Claire Solak. For personal reasons, I plan on going to school for my Masters of Fine Arts (MFA). I would love to stay in Iowa because I've fallen in love with this state.

What does ICL means to you?

Personally, ICL is a resource that people don't use as much as they should. I think it is very important to the Cornell community and provides unique opportunities that I can learn from.