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## The National Poetry Series

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**The National Poetry Series** invites you to enter the 2008 Open Competition. Established in 1978, **NPS** was established in 1978 to ensure the publication of five books of poetry each year. Winning manuscripts are selected through this annual open competition, judged by five distinguished poets. Each winning poet receives a \$1,000 cash award in addition to having his or her manuscript published by NPS participating publishers: Harper Perennial, Penguin Books, Coffee House Press, Fence Books, and another press to be announced.

In 2008, The National Poetry Series is excited to be teaming with **mtvU** in an effort to promote poetry to the college campus audience. The winning book chosen to be published by Harper Perennial also will be the recipient of **The National Poetry Series mtvU Prize**. The winning poet will have the opportunity to interview the poet/judge representing **mtvU** in 2008, Yusef Komunyakaa. Please see below for specific student guidelines.



### NPS 2008 Contest Guidelines:

▶ The National Poetry Series seeks book-length manuscripts of poetry written by American citizens. All manuscripts must be previously unpublished, although some or all of the individual poems may have appeared in periodicals. The winning poet will be responsible for obtaining necessary permissions for previously published work. Translations, chapbooks, small groups of poems, and books previously self-published are not eligible. Manuscript length is not limited. However, a length of 48-64 pages is suggested.

▶ Manuscripts, accompanied by an entrance fee of \$30.00 (per manuscripts) made payable to The National Poetry Series, will be accepted at **The National Poetry Series, 57 Mountain Avenue, Princeton, NJ 08540, with a postmark of January 1 through (and including) February 15, 2008.**

#### ▶ Manuscripts must include 2 cover pages:

- ♦ One page should list title of manuscript, author's name, address, telephone and/or e-mail address. This should be the only page with the author's identification.
- ♦ One page should list title of manuscript only.

★ If you are a student and would like to be considered for **The mtvU Prize**, please include the following completed statement on the identification cover sheet, and complete and attach the guest/performer release with your submission:

***I am currently enrolled as a (undergraduate/graduate) student at (name of accredited institution) and would like to be considered for The mtvU Prize. (signature)***

#### ▶ Manuscripts must be:

- ♦ Typed on standard white paper, on one side of the page only.
- ♦ Paginated (include a table of contents).
- ♦ Bound only by a clip, as more permanent bindings are difficult to handle!

▶ **DO NOT INCLUDE:** Acknowledgments, explanatory statements, resumes, autobiographical statements, photographs, illustrations, or artwork. These will not be considered.

▶ We regret that manuscripts cannot be returned. No additions, deletions, or substitutions once a manuscript has been submitted.

▶ Finalists will be notified and asked to submit 5 additional copies of their original submission.

▶ Winning poets will be given the opportunity to make final changes prior to publication.

▶ Please include a self-addressed stamped postcard if you would like confirmation that your manuscript has been received. Include a SASE if you would like notification of the winners in August.

The National Poetry Series reserves the right to disregard any entry that fails to comply with the above guidelines.

Please visit [www.nationalpoetryseries.org](http://www.nationalpoetryseries.org) for general updates throughout the competition.

If you require any additional information, write to the Coordinator.