1. **What are the details for registering?**
   a. Participants must be sponsored by a school or community organization. Teams and Indy poets must be sponsored by a mentor or coach who works at a school or community organization.
   b. If a school is registering a team of more than three poets but less than 10, those participants should be registered with the school team. If a school has more than 10 poets, the additional participants can register as one of the school's additional 3 indy poet slots.
   c. Participants on school teams must be enrolled in that institution and not yet graduated within that academic year.

2. **What is the difference between registering as a team or as an Indy poet?**
   a. An indy poet is an individual. That means they are repping themselves and themselves only. They do not participate as a part of a team. They will not have the option of creating a group piece like a team would.
   b. A team has the option to create a group piece together. A group piece has 4 poets. The group piece round is the 5th round in preliminaries, and is optional to perform a group piece.
   c. Whether a participant is a part of a team or an Indy poet, teams and Indys will be required to participate in 2 preliminary bouts. Indy poets and participants on a team all have the same abilities for voting and being casted for votes.

3. **What if I do not feel comfortable being a part of my school's team?**
   a. We understand that sometimes a school may not be the safest place for a student. If you do not feel comfortable being a part of your school's team, please reach out asia[@youngchicagoauthors.org](mailto:asia@youngchicagoauthors.org) so we can assist.
   b. Participants can also register to participate as a part of a community organization who is sponsoring a team or indys.

4. **Can I attend the auxiliary events?**
   a. Auxiliary events are open to all registered participants and our community. Yes!

5. **Can I use props in my poem?**
   a. Props are not allowed. For additional information, see the 2024 rules.

6. **Does my team have to create a group piece**
   a. No, your group does not need to create a group piece. Group pieces are not required, they are only an option for teams. If a team does create a group piece, they will have to involve 4 members of the team. For our 2024 year, group poems WILL be considered for voting, so we highly encourage your team to create a group poem!

7. **Is there a time limit?**

a. Poems may be no more than 3 minutes. There will be deductions for going over the 3 minutes. For additional information, see the 2024 rules.

8. **What is the timeline to register?**
    a. Regular registration closes on January, 15th 2024. Registration for teams is $150 and will be $250 for late registration. Indy poet registration is $25 registration and will be $50 for late registration.
    b. Late registration fees are any registration fees that are paid after January 15th 2024.

9. **Is there an age limit to participate in this festival?**
    a. Participants must be 19 years old or younger on the day of our kickoff event (February 10th 2o24) and enrolled in a high school or GED program. Some flexibility may be granted on a case-by-case basis. Please reach out to Asia at asia@youngchicagoauthors.org if there are questions.

10. **How do I prepare for the Rooted and Radical festival?**
    a. Rooted and Radical is a poetry performance festival, so participants must prepare original pieces of writing to perform in front of an audience. We know this can be a scary thought! Young Chicago Authors has several different resources on our resource page to support your writing of original poems to showcase in the festival. We also have programs such as Check the Method and Every Word Counts happening on Saturdays and our regularly scheduled Wordplay happening on Tuesday if you want continued writing and performance practice until the festival and afterwards.

11. **Who can I reach out to if I have questions?**
    a. Please reach out to asia@youngchicagoauthors or jmascarenhas@youngchicagoauthors for more information about our events, resources, or questions!