In the “Bracket Challenge,” boys' love of competition is parlayed into enthusiasm for global poetry. Using the bracket format as inspiration, poems, instead of basketball teams, inhabit the brackets. Students work in independent groups to crown a champion.
Men’s NCAA Basketball Tournament
MARCH MADNESS
WHY?

Competition + Poetry
GLOBAL CITIZENRY THROUGH POETRY

- **Exploration**
  - “Genuine poetry can communicate before it is understood.” – T.S. Eliot

- **Empathy**
  - “Poetry is eternal graffiti written in the heart of everyone.” – Lawrence Ferlinghetti
BELIEFS ABOUT BOYS

- Boys love competition
  - “In the classroom boys respond favorably to lessons that involve movement, teamwork, and competition.”

- Boys, typically, do not embrace poetry
  - “Every time I hear someone say I don’t like poetry, or I’m not a poetry person, I think the opposite is true. I believe everyone is a poetry person. Poetry is just a form of storytelling, and we’re born to tell stories.”
  - Sherman Alexie

How would I set this up in my classroom?
BUILDING YOUR BRACKET — 64 POEMS
**SET-UP**

- Divide class into 4 heterogeneous groups
- Assign a captain (rotates per round)
- Independent learning + community building
- Tournament guidelines
LET’S PLAY!

Final Four
APPLICATIONS

- Literature/Art
  - Authors, Artists, Songs, Movies, Artwork

- Social Sciences
  - World Leaders, Global Conflicts, Philosophies

- Science
  - Inventions, Elements, Discoveries
QUESTIONS?

jlamerato@sahs.org