2022 RULES AND REGULATIONS
FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

General Information

The rules and regulations included here apply to the 2022 Congressional Art Competition generally. Each Member of Congress may establish additional rules for his or her district competition. Please consult with your Member's office to verify whether any additional rules apply and how to enter.

The competition is open to high school students. Members may choose whether to include 7th and 8th grade students in the art competition if schools located in their districts house 7th through 12th grades on one campus. Teachers and/or students should verify their eligibility with the office of the Member of Congress. Artwork must be the creation a single student. Students may not collaborate on an entry.

Artwork must be two-dimensional. Each framed artwork can be **no larger** than **26 inches high, 26 inches wide, and 4 inches deep**. If your artwork is selected as the winning piece, it must arrive in Washington, DC, framed. **Even when framed, it must still measure no larger than the above maximum dimensions.** No framed piece should weigh more than 15 pounds.

Accepted mediums for the two-dimensional artwork are as follows:

- Paintings: oil, acrylics, watercolor, etc.
- Drawings: colored pencil, pencil, ink, marker, pastels, charcoal (It is recommended that charcoal and pastel drawings be fixed.)
- Collages: must be two dimensional
- Prints: lithographs, silkscreen, block prints
- Mixed Media: use of more than two mediums such as pencil, ink, watercolor, etc.
- Computer-generated art
- Photographs

Each entry must be **original** in concept, design, and execution and may not violate U.S. copyright laws. Any entry that has been copied from an existing photo or image (including a painting, graphic, or advertisement) that was created by someone other than the student is a violation of the competition rules and **will not** be accepted. For more information on copyright laws, we recommend you visit the Scholastic website: https://www.artandwriting.org/awards/how-to-enter/copyright-plagiarism/

Work entered must be in the original medium (that is, not a scanned reproduction of a painting or drawing).

Artwork will hang in the Cannon Tunnel for the duration of the exhibition. Students should only submit artwork they will not need for other purposes.

Suitability Guidelines

Artwork must adhere to the policy of the House Office Building Commission (the Commission). In accordance with this policy, exhibits depicting subjects of contemporary political controversy or a sensationalistic or gruesome nature are not allowed. Each Member of Congress will be required to submit a Letter of Support confirming that the Member has determined that the winning artwork adheres to the Commission's policy. However, if another Member of Congress requests review of any artwork for compliance with the Commission's policy, the final decision regarding the artwork's suitability for display will be made by the Commission. While it is not the intent to censor any artwork, we do wish to avoid artwork that is potentially inappropriate for display in this highly travelled area leading to the Capitol.

Student Information and Release Form

Each entrant must submit a Student Information and Release Form. The Student Information and Release Form is available through the office of your Member of Congress.

The information requested on the first page of the form should be provided as thoroughly as possible. Students should include their mailing addresses, if they differ from their home addresses. Students should also include contact information that will be valid for several years.

The form requires a description of the artwork, which should be detailed, clearly identifying the major elements of the work. For example, "self-portrait" or "a picture of two people" would be unacceptable, since many artworks would fit those descriptions. The following is an example of a useful description: "A painting of two people; the person on the left wears a green sweater and khaki pants; the person on the right wears a black shirt and a striped skirt. A dog sits at their feet."

The second page of the Student Information and Release Form contains a legal release and a certification that the artwork is original in design and execution. The student, an art teacher, and a parent or guardian must sign where appropriate. Entries without signed originality certifications and artwork releases may not be accepted.

A **TYPED** copy of the Student Information and Release Form, signed by the teacher, a parent or guardian, and the student, **must be** securely attached to the back of the artwork to certify the originality of the piece. Please retain a copy for your records.

Framing Guidelines (Overall Winner)

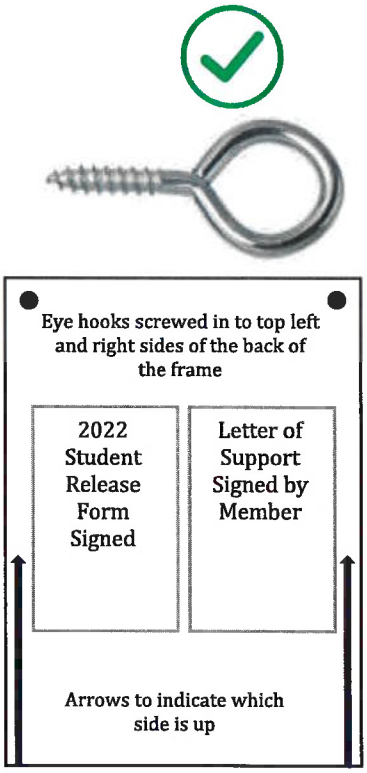
Framing regulations apply only to the winning artwork that will be sent to Washington, DC. Each Member of Congress may include additional entry rules for his or her own District; please consult your Member's office to see whether a frame is required for the district competition. Even if your Member of Congress does not require a frame to enter the artwork in the district competition, **if your artwork is selected for display in the Congressional Art Competition exhibit, it must be delivered to Washington, DC, in a frame. When framed, the artwork can be no larger than 26**

inches high, 26 inches wide, and 4 inches deep, including the frame.

All winning artwork must be enhanced and protected by a sturdy frame. Frames must be made of wood or metal. No plastic "snap on" or metal frames that can easily come apart are to be used. All artwork, except paintings in oil or acrylic on canvas, must be protected by Plexiglas or glass. Plexiglas is preferred. If glass is used, special packing and shipping arrangements are encouraged to ensure that the work is not damaged if the glass breaks.

Matting can enhance or detract from a work of art and should be carefully selected.

The artwork will be hung from vertical wires. Two sturdy screw-in eye hooks (see picture below) **must** be attached at the top left and right sides of the back of the frame for hanging to prevent the work from leaning forward or hanging unevenly. Wire between the hooks will need to be **removed** before it is sent to Washington, DC.



Do not attach labels, ribbons, etc., to the front of the piece or underneath the glass or Plexiglas.

Please indicate which side is up by marking arrows pointing towards the top on the back.

All works, including frame, should be no larger than 26 inches high, 26 inches wide, and 4 inches deep, to the outside of the frame, and 15 pounds in weight. Ensure that the framer is informed of the size and weight limit and double check the size before sending the entry to Washington, DC. ***Due to wide participation of Member offices, framed works larger than the specified dimensions will be turned away.***

Be You! We want what you have!

There is no formula to receiving a Scholastic Award. We want you to **surprise us**, **challenge us**, let us into your world.

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards may be an awards program, but first and foremost, it's a celebration of you: your hard work, your unique talents, and your originality! A Gold Key is not the only award we give; another comes long before the National Ceremony at Carnegie Hall when our jurors, world-renowned artists and writers meet you through what you've made. It's your chance to be taken seriously as an artist or a writer, as an individual with a personal voice or vision that belongs to you and you alone.

The Scholastic Awards hold you to the same standards as professional artists and writers. This doesn't mean we expect you to spend a decade perfecting a manuscript before sending it out, or to jumpstart a new art movement that completely changes the world. All we ask is that you be yourself! We value originality above all else, and this means no awards can be given to work that is not your own. So before submitting any work to the Awards, make sure it adheres to the plagiarism and copyright guidelines on our website. There is no formula to receiving a Scholastic Award. We want you to surprise us, challenge us, let us into your world. In almost 100 years, there's only one thing we've never seen: You! And this is all we want!

Scholastic Art & Writing Awards

A GUIDE TO COPYRIGHT & PLAGIARISM

Work that is submitted to the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards must not be plagiarized or violate copyright laws. If a submitted work is plagiarized and/or violates copyright law, the work will be disqualified from the Scholastic Awards.

To avoid this from happening, please review these guidelines for submitting your work.

PLAGIARISM IS DIFFERENT FROM A COPYRIGHT VIOLATION

PLAGIARISM is an *ethical* violation. Plagiarism is failing to cite sources and engaging in the act of passing someone else's work or ideas off as one's own.

- If you take another person's words, materials, images, etc. without citing them (i.e. if you pass someone else's work off as your own), the work is plagiarized. This applies even if you have only copied a part, rather than the whole, of another's work.

A **COPYRIGHT** is a property right. Copyright is a form of legal protection prohibiting others from copying one's creative work without permission.

- Just as someone owns a car and another person may not steal it, an artist or writer owns the rights to the creative expression of his/her own original work and another person may not steal it by copying it without permission.
- Copyrights to a work arise as soon as the work is fixed to a tangible form. For example, an idea for a painting is not protected until the idea is actually expressed on a canvas or in another tangible form.

Submissions that contain plagiarism and/or copyright violations should not be submitted to the scholastic awards.

HOW DO I KNOW IF MY WORK IS IN VIOLATION OF COPYRIGHT LAWS?

Most modern pieces of art and writing are protected by copyright law. Copying a protected work without permission is a copyright violation, even if the source has been cited in your submission.

If there is no exact or literal copying, but the average person may notice substantial similarities between the submitted work and the protected work, it is possible that you are still violating copyright laws.

What if the original work is in the public domain—do copyright rules still apply?
Works in the **Public Domain** are those that have expired copyrights or that cannot be protected by copyright law.

- There is a common misconception that if a work is online, then it is in the Public Domain. However, this is NOT true. **Just because a work is on the Internet does not mean that it is in the Public Domain.** In fact, most images, songs, essays, poems, etc. on the Internet are copyright protected.

Scholastic Art & Writing Awards

SUBSTANTIAL SIMILARITY

- Copying a protected work without permission is a copyright violation, unless it qualifies under the Fair Use doctrine.
- If the copying is excessive – that is, a large portion of the original is copied without justification – it may not be considered Fair Use.
- If there is no exact or "literal" copying, but the average person may notice "substantial similarities" between the submitted work and the protected work, it is possible that you are still violating copyright laws.

FAIR USE

In its most general sense, a **fair use** is any copying of copyrighted material done for a limited and transformative purpose, such as to comment upon, criticize, or parody a copyrighted work. Such uses can be done without permission from the copyright owner.

TRANSFORMATIVE WORKS

A new work that adds value, substantially changes, comments on, or gives a new expression or meaning to the copyrighted material. Transformative works may qualify as Fair Use.

IS THE WORK TRANSFORMATIVE?

- If the submission uses the copyrighted work as raw material and transforms the original work by bringing new insights and understandings to the piece, it may be considered Fair Use.
- Changing the medium – for example, creating a painting based on a copyrighted photo – does not make the submission "transformative."
    - Making substantial changes to the original work could be transformative – does it add something new or alter the message? For example, is it a parody, mimicking the original?

While properly citing work sources shows good faith, simply attributing a work to its author will not protect you when reproducing or sampling works.

Scholastic Art & Writing Awards

CONSEQUENCES OF A COPYRIGHT VIOLATION

Before participating in the Awards, students sign a form stating that s/he will:

- **Submit original content** that does not infringe someone else's work or idea.
- **Cite the original piece** if the student's art or writing is based on, incorporates, or is derived from another source.

If the Alliance has reason to believe that a submission violates the participation terms, the student submission will be disqualified. In this event, the Alliance may refuse or revoke the grant of an Award, and take such other measures, including the recall or removal of the awarded work, as the Alliance deems appropriate. Bear in mind that this policy is in the interest of both the student and the Alliance, since the display or distribution of an infringing submission could result in financial liability for both the student and the Alliance.

TIPS: Preventing Plagiarism & Copyright Violations

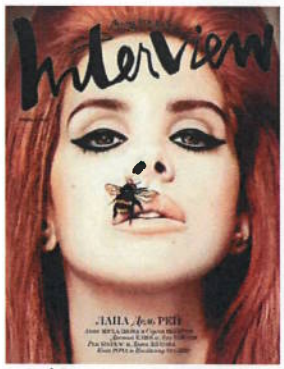
- Educators and students are responsible for educating themselves on plagiarism and copyright issues. This page is only a guide, and you are encouraged to consult additional sources to broaden your understanding.
- If you have any doubt about whether a submission violates the copyrights of another artist or writer, assume that it does and choose not to submit that work.
- If you would like to legally use all or part of a copyrighted work in your own original piece, you must get permission from the artist or writer first. You must also establish under Work Sources that you obtained permission to use the work when registering for the Scholastic Awards online.
    - A basic rule of thumb is that if you use another person's copyright protected work, you need permission, except if Fair Use applies or if it is in the Public Domain.
- Always cite all sources, whether the source is protected by copyright or not.
- No number of words or percentage of a work can be safely assumed to render a work different enough to avoid copyright infringement of the original work.
- Changing the medium of an original work can still be copyright infringement. For example, creating a painting based on an existing photograph would still violate the original photographer's copyrights unless the student received permission and/or if Fair Use applies.
- **EDUCATORS**: if a classroom assignment involves any copying of a protected work, even if it's just for the purpose of practicing and learning, please teach your students to write to the original artist to get permission to use the work if the work is to be copied, distributed or displayed for anything other than educational or classroom or purposes.

Scholastic Art & Writing Awards

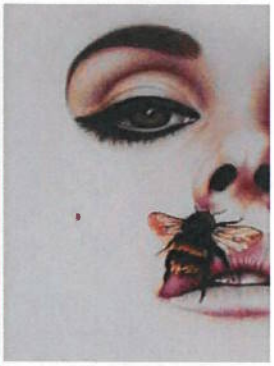
EXAMPLE OF COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT

Drawings, paintings, and other works copied from published photographs, the internet or existing works should not be submitted and will be disqualified.

DO NOT SUBMIT THIS WORK



Lana Del Rey, Interview Magazine



Lana Del Rey Fan Art

If you are using collaged images the work submitted must include substantial changes to the original work. Changing the medium or adjusting color does not transform the original source material.

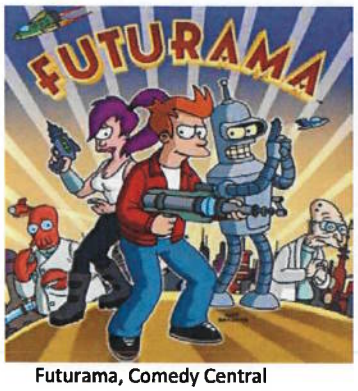
DO NOT SUBMIT THIS WORK

Stock image available for purchase

Digital Artwork

Do not base characters and plots on already published comics, books, movies or published series.

DO NOT SUBMIT THIS WORK



Futurama, Comedy Central

Futurama Fan Art

Scholastic Art & Writing Awards

EXAMPLE OF PLAGIARISM

ORIGINAL

There Is a Question I'm Forever Waiting to be Asked
By Ben Kopel

& the only answer
goes something like this—

In the attic of everything
there is a bird
with one wing
& his heart is true
& nothing like mine.

PLAGIARIZED VERSIONS

Self-Portrait as a Philosophical Allegory
By John Doe

and the only answer goes something like this—
In the attic of everything, there is a bird
with one wing, and his heart is true,
and nothing like mine.

The Author Disguised as Wallace Stevens
By John Doe

There is a black bird
with one wing
and his heart is true
and nothing like mine
in the attic of everything.

There Is a Thought I've Been Pondering for Eternity
By John Doe

This is
the sole retort:

In the basement of all,
there is a moth
with only
one wing
and her heart
is real,
unlike mine.