



2026 RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

General Information

The rules and regulations included here apply to the 2026 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. Students should enter the competition in the district where they reside, not where they attend school. Members may choose whether to include 7 and 8th grade students in the art competition if schools located in their districts house 7 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 of a single student. Students may not collaborate on an entry.

Artwork must be two-dimensional. 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. **Please Do Not Frame Your Art.**

Accepted mediums for the two-dimensional artwork as follows:

- Paintings: oil, acrylics, watercolor, etc.
- Drawings: colored pencil, pencil, ink, marker, pastels, charcoal (Charcoal and pastel must 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 cannot 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, drawing, etc.).

Artwork will be displayed 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, of a sensationalistic, or of 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, (For instance, students, especially seniors, are encouraged to include a personal email address rather than a school email address that will expire at the end of their senior year.)

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 shift 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.

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Guides are subject to change.



2026 Congressional Art Competition Judging Guideline

Theme: *“Reflecting on Alabama’s 7th: Where History is Made”*

Each exhibit is judged separately. Each exhibit will be judged on its own merit in competition with regionally selected winners. The judges will use the judging criteria as listed and will give consideration to the degree to which standards are met. Each of the items has a maximum value as listed.

Judges will evaluate each exhibit on a point basis. The judges' decision is final.

Judging Process:

1. Independent judges give each art entry a score of 1-5 pts. per category.
2. An additional 5 points if entry meets guidelines.
3. Add points together.

Parts of the Overall Score:

Note: A perfect score for an art project is 20 points. The maximum score for each category is 5 pts. Plus 5 additional points if the entry meets the guidelines.

1. Creativity & Originality (1-5 pts available)
 - a. Is there originality?
 - b. Is there creativity?
- 2 Composition and Design (1-5 pts available)
 - a. Does the composition have a balance of color and design?
 - b. Does the composition reflect artistic ability?
3. Presentation & Skill (1-5 pts available)
 - a. Is the exhibit neat and attractive?
 - b. Did the composition require thought and skill?



2026 Congressional Art Competition Pick-up Drop-off Instructions

Theme: *“Reflecting on Alabama’s 7th: Where History is Made”*

Please **DO NOT** frame your art. The 1st Place winner will receive a complimentary frame from Congresswoman Sewell to be showcased in Washington, DC.

All artwork can be taken to your school's district superintendent's office on or before *Monday, March 2nd, 2026*. If you will require pick-up from the superintendent's office, please call Delphine Lee at (334) 262-1919.

You may also drop your artwork off at any of our district offices listed. Please call the closest office nearest you for drop off arrangements:

Birmingham Office

Two 20th Street North, Suite 1130
Birmingham, AL 35203
(205) 254-1960

Tuscaloosa Office

Tuscaloosa Municipal Court
2122 Gary Fitts Street
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401
(205) 752-5380

Selma Office

Federal Building
908 Alabama Avenue, Suite 112
Selma, AL 36701
(334) 877-4414

Montgomery Satellite Office

Montgomery County Courthouse, Annex III
101 South Lawrence Street
Montgomery, AL 36104
(334) 262-1919

Please contact Delphine Lee with questions: (334) 262-1919 or Delphine.Lee@mail.house.gov