

# Be You! We want what you have!

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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! ●



## A GUIDE TO COPYRIGHT & PLAGIARISM FOR STUDENTS & EDUCATORS

Work that is submitted to the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards must be original work created by the student. If a submitted work is copied from another artist or writer or is plagiarized, the work will be disqualified from the Scholastic Awards.

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

### What is Copyright & Plagiarism?

**Copyright** is a form of legal protection prohibiting others from copying one's creative work without permission. A copyright is a property right. Copyright law grants the creator of an original work the exclusive rights for its use and distribution.

**Plagiarism** is an ethical violation resulting from failure to cite sources and engaging in the act of passing someone else's work or ideas off as one's own. This applies even if you have only copied a part, rather than the whole, of another's work.

### Scholastic Awards Policy

By participating in the Awards, students agree to the Scholastic Awards participation terms. This means that the student agrees to submit "*original work*" to the Awards.

### How do I know if my work is original?

An original work is one that is new and different from what others have created. This means that you are the author of the work, and the work is not copied from someone else's original work.

Even if there is no exact or literal copying, but the average person may notice substantial similarities between the submitted work and the source material, it is possible that the work is not considered original and should not be submitted to the Awards. For example, a pencil drawing that directly copies a celebrity portrait that was taken by another artist or a piece of writing that simply rearranges the words of someone else's writing is not original work.

### Can I use someone else's work if I make changes to it?

If your work transforms the source material, then it may be considered original. Transformative work is a new work that adds value, substantially changes, comments on, or gives a new expression or meaning to the source.

- If the submission uses another artist or writer's work as raw material and transforms the original work by bringing new insights and understandings to the piece, it may be submitted to the Scholastic Awards.
- Changing the medium—for example, creating a painting based on a photo that was taken by someone else or creating a poem by rearranging the lyrics to a song—does NOT make the work transformative.
- Cropping or resizing an image does NOT make the work transformative.
- Changing the order of the lines in a poem or adding a few words to a sentence written by another author is NOT transformative.



### What if I cite my sources? Can I use another person's work if I give them credit?

You may use **limited portions** of another's work if you cite your source and if the final product is still an original idea. For example, you can quote another author in a critical essay if you cite the author in the works cited section of your submission.

There is no formula, specific number of words, or percentage of someone else's work that is acceptable to use when submitting your work to the Scholastic Awards. What is important is that your finished work is something new and different from your source.

### Consequences of Copyright & Plagiarism Violations

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.

### What if I find a work that was submitted to the Scholastic Awards that isn't original?

If you suspect that a work was copied from another source or was plagiarized, please let us know by emailing us at [info@artandwriting.org](mailto:info@artandwriting.org). We will investigate to determine if the work violates our participation terms. Because of student privacy concerns, we will not follow-up with you to report on the outcome of our investigation.

### Tips: Preventing Copyright & Plagiarism Violations

- Educators and students are responsible for educating themselves on copyright and plagiarism issues. This page is only a guide. There is no formula for creating an original work.
- If you have any doubt about whether a submission is original, choose not to submit that work.
- Always cite all sources, whether the source is protected by copyright or not.
- Even if you have permission to use a work or if the work is in the public domain, the work that you submit to the Scholastic Awards must represent a new, original work.
- No number of words or percentage of a source can be safely assumed to render a work original.
- Changing the medium of an original work is not considered transformative. For example, a painting or drawing of a photograph taken from the Internet or a magazine is not considered original and should not be submitted to the Scholastic Awards.
- Changing the order of the lines in a poem or adding a few words to a sentence written by another author is not considered transformative. For example, a poem comprised of rearranged or paraphrased song lyrics is not considered original and should not be submitted to the Scholastic Awards.
- Educators: if a classroom assignment involves any copying of another artist or writer's work, even if it's just for the purpose of practicing and learning, please direct students not to submit these works to the Scholastic 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



## 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.