Guide to the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards
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Welcome to the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards!

Every year, the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards receive hundreds of thousands of art and writing submissions from teenagers across the country for recognition, exhibition, publication, and scholarship opportunities. This guide is designed to give you a brief overview of the program and to let you know how you can participate in this long-standing tradition.

In 2023, the Awards will celebrate their centennial year. Over the course of the Awards' history, we have witnessed the power that the program’s recognition has, as it serves as a platform for the creative visions and voices of teens.

We want all teens, regardless of their backgrounds and views, to participate, to have their voices elevated, and to be emboldened as they enter the world of adulthood. Join us in this joyous celebration of teens and their creative expressions.

Christopher Wisniewski
Executive Director
Alliance for Young Artists & Writers / Scholastic Art & Writing Awards

About the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers
The Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, presenter of the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to identify students with exceptional artistic and literary talent and present their remarkable work to the world. The Alliance partners with more than 100 Affiliates to present regional Awards programs in communities across the country. Beyond the Awards, the Alliance produces a number of initiatives, including a touring exhibition, the National Student Poets Program, workshops and summer scholarships, educator residencies, and alumni opportunities.
Program at a Glance

Students create original art and writing.

Works are submitted to Regional Programs at artandwriting.org beginning in September.

Deadlines vary by region, beginning December 1.

Regional Awards are presented at local Ceremonies and Exhibitions.

Gold Key works advance for judging in New York City. National Medalists are announced in March.

The National Ceremony is held at Carnegie Hall in June. Select works are included in national publications and exhibitions.
For Students

Why the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards?
The Awards are a celebration of teen voices from across the United States—let yours be heard! Winners have opportunities for regional and national recognition, exhibition, publication, and scholarships. They also join an inspiring community of Awards alumni, including Tschabalala Self, Stephen King, Kay WalkingStick, Charles White, Joyce Carol Oates, and Andy Warhol. A mention of your award strengthens your college applications and increases your opportunity for scholarships at select schools.

How do I enter?

1. **Create an account.**
   Visit [artandwriting.org](http://artandwriting.org) to sign up for an account in the fall.

2. **Upload your work.**
   Share your best art and writing.

3. **Complete your submission.**
   Send a signed submission form and payment or fee waiver form to your local program.

*Guidelines and deadlines vary by region.*

Who is eligible?
To participate in the Awards, you must be a student in grades 7–12, age 13 years or older. If you reside outside of the United States, U.S. territories, or Canada, then you must be enrolled in an accredited American school to participate.

Can I get a scholarship?
Yes! Although not every Scholastic Award includes a cash award, there are many opportunities for scholarships. Each year the Alliance presents $10,000 each to 16 Gold Medal Portfolio recipients, and $1,000 each to 30 Silver Medal with Distinction Portfolio recipients. The Alliance also partners with dedicated funders to offer scholarships through other Special Achievement Award opportunities. Students may opt to be considered for additional opportunities by submitting a thoughtful personal statement in response to the prompts provided in the application process.
In addition, the Alliance partners with select colleges and universities to earmark scholarships for Scholastic Awards recipients. We send a special announcement listing all graduating National Medalists to these schools.

The Scholastic Awards Summer (SAS) Scholarship Program invites students in grades 7–11 with a Gold or Silver Key to apply for a need- and merit-based scholarship to attend a summer art or writing program.

Visit artandwriting.org/scholarships to learn more.

How much does it cost to submit work?

The entry fee is $7 per work and $25 per portfolio. If this presents a barrier to your participation, you may submit a fee waiver form, and we will waive the fee.

What are the judges looking for?

1. **Originality**
   Work that breaks from convention, blurs the boundaries between genres, or challenges notions of how a particular concept or emotion can be expressed.

2. **Technical Skill**
   Art or writing that uses technique and skill to create something unique, powerful, and innovative.

3. **Emergence of a Personal Vision or Voice**
   Work with an authentic and unique point of view and style.

Is there anything I can’t submit?

We value freedom of expression! You are free to explore any and all topics or viewpoints. There are no predefined prompts. All we ask is that you be yourself!

When it comes to originality, we hold you to the same standards as professional artists and writers. 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 our Participation Terms and the Copyright and Plagiarism Guidelines on our website, artandwriting.org/copyright.
I’ve submitted my work; what happens next?

Your submission will get processed by your regional program, and this may take several weeks! Once all the work is processed, a panel of artists, writers, or other creative professionals from the community will review it.

Top works at the regional level are awarded Gold Keys, Silver Keys, and Honorable Mentions. Many of these awards are presented at ceremonies around the country.

Gold Key works advance automatically to national adjudication, where they may receive Gold or Silver Medals. Gold Medalists are listed in annual publications and are invited to attend the National Ceremony at Carnegie Hall. Select Gold and Silver Medalists’ works are included in the Art.Write.Now. National Exhibition, The Best Teen Art, and The Best Teen Writing.

Here are some examples of what students should and should not submit. Visit artandwriting.org/copyright for more detailed information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Do Submit:</th>
<th>Do Not Submit:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Work inspired by your own imagination</td>
<td>Fan fiction or fan art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art or writing that transforms the source material</td>
<td>Prequels or sequels to books written by another author</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work that comments on other art or writing, like editorial cartoons or critical essays</td>
<td>Celebrity portraits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drawings from life or from photographs that you took yourself</td>
<td>Photos of models or subjects who have not given permission to use their image</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Works based on photographs taken by someone else (even if the source is in the public domain)</td>
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For Educators

How can the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards help my students?

The Awards empower your creative students with opportunities for recognition, exhibition, publication, and scholarships. They can also empower you! Educators are publicly recognized for the Awards their students receive. We can help you document success in your classroom to encourage school administrators, parents, and future students. In addition, our tools, workshops, and programs for educators can help you develop your and your students’ creative capacities.

How do I manage and enter my students’ work?

1. **Create your account.**
   Visit artandwriting.org to create your educator account beginning in the fall.

2. **Connect with your students.**
   If your student already has an account, you can request permission to view and edit their submissions. If your student doesn’t have their own account yet, you can create an account for them after you create your own account.

3. **Upload the works.**
   Students can upload their own work, or you can create new submissions for them.

4. **Sign the submission form.**
   Each submission must include a submission form that is signed by an educator and the student’s parent or guardian.

What should my student submit?

We’re looking for work that is original and that skillfully expresses a student’s personal voice or vision. Encourage your students to take classroom projects in a unique direction. The judges will view or read many works consecutively. Although your students may submit work from the same classroom assignment, we don’t recommend it. The judges will select the entries that are unexpected and stand out.

Please review the Copyright and Plagiarism Guidelines with your students before you enter! Visit artandwriting.org/copyright.
Help your student document their work!

The judges will review submissions digitally, so it’s important to document each work well. For writing, please help your student proofread and avoid extraneous formatting. For art, take high-resolution photographs of the artwork in a well-lit area. Crop each image so that it is full-bleed.

Have the students sign their name on the back of the work, not the front. If the writing or artwork includes your students’ name, school, or any other identifying information, it may be disqualified.

What opportunities are available to educators?

Educators whose students excel in the Awards receive recognition pins at the regional level and medals at the national level. In addition, they receive certificates of recognition and the chance to receive cash awards and gift certificates. Educators who participate in the Awards may also apply to our residency programs.

What resources are available to educators?

The Alliance partners with leaders in the education field to create guides to help educators facilitate discussions about art and writing in their classrooms.

Our two main publications, The Best Teen Art and The Best Teen Writing, provide useful samples of teen works and are distributed widely through the National Art Educators Association conference and the National Council of Teachers of English conference, as well as through libraries throughout the country. Electronic copies are also available at artandwriting.org.
For Parents and Guardians

Why the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards?
The Awards provide a platform for creative expression. We want to celebrate your child’s voice! Participating in the Awards provides opportunities for recognition, exhibition, publication, and scholarships. A mention of the Awards also strengthens your child’s college applications and increases their opportunity for scholarships at select art and design schools.

How can I support my child?
1. **Find your regional program.**

2. **Sign the submission form.**
Each individual entry must include a submission form signed by both an educator and a parent or guardian. Please review the form carefully to make sure the information is correct (including proper capitalization). The way your child’s name appears on this form is how it will appear on their Awards certificate and other materials. Submit the form with the entry fee or fee waiver form before the deadline.

3. **Follow the Awards for updates.**
Instructions about next steps will appear in your student’s account. Stay up-to-date with announcements by subscribing to the Scholastic Awards newsletter at [blog.artandwriting.org](http://blog.artandwriting.org) or by following us on social media. Instagram and Twitter: @artandwriting; Facebook: @ScholasticArtandWritingAwards

How do I support the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers?
Hundreds of generous individuals, corporations, foundations, and organizations band together to make the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards possible year after year. Without them, the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers would not be able to celebrate, recognize, and support the remarkable efforts of creative teens across the country. Visit [artandwriting.org/donate](http://artandwriting.org/donate) to make your tax-deductible contribution.
For Partners and Supporters

How can my organization partner with the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers?

Host a Regional Awards Program

The Alliance partners with more than 100 Affiliates, including colleges and universities, museums, nonprofit organizations, libraries, and educator associations, to present Regional Awards Programs around the country. Each Affiliate facilitates submission processing, judging, and a ceremony or exhibition. Help us identify and encourage the next generation of artists and writers.

As an Affiliate Partner, you will:

• Create opportunities for teenagers in your community to receive recognition, showcase their work, and receive scholarships.

• Build new audiences by bringing students, educators, and their families to your organization for regional celebrations.

• Garner local and national press for your organization, as well as the teens and educators you serve.

Recruit Judges for Region-at-Large

In communities where there is no local Affiliate, students participate in the Awards through the Region-at-Large Program. Our many Region-at-Large Partners adjudicate these works by recruiting judges in either art or writing categories. This is a great way to build community ties with arts or literary professionals and to get an inside look at what teens in America are creating. Each partner also receives an honorarium.

Present a Workshop

The Alliance works with partners across the country to present workshops led by professional artists and writers, and is always searching for new organizations willing to host workshops for students in their community. The Alliance provides
content for the workshop and covers the instructors’ costs. Workshop contents vary, from poetry to video game design and from editorial cartoon to healing and the arts.

Be a National Judge
The Alliance seeks qualified creative professionals who are passionate about art and writing created by teens. We rely on jurors from across the country to identify and recognize the most talented teen artists and writers. For nearly a century, our adjudication process has adhered to three tenets: blind adjudication, freedom of expression, and our criteria for judging (originality, technical skill, and the emergence of a personal voice or vision). National jurors receive honoraria and a glimpse of the creative minds of our teens.

Provide a Summer Scholarship
Scholastic Awards Summer (SAS) Partners provide need- and merit-based scholarships to summer art or writing programs. Students in grades 7–11 who have received a Gold or Silver Key are invited to apply for a general SAS Scholarship, and then we work with our partners to place selected students into specific programs. SAS Partners benefit from the Alliance’s wide reach and access to the nation’s top artistic and literary teen talents.

How do I become a Partner?
Email info@artandwriting.org with your specific partnership interest, and an Alliance staff member will contact you.

How do I support the work of the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers?
The Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, presenter of the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The Alliance relies on hundreds of individual and institutional donors to empower teens and to celebrate their creative expressions. Visit artandwriting.org/donate to learn more.
Apply to the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards

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[artandwriting.org](http://artandwriting.org)
## What are the categories?

### Art Categories
- Architecture & Industrial Design
- Ceramics & Glass
- Comic Art
- Design
- Digital Art
- Drawing & Illustration
- Editorial Cartoon
- Fashion
- Film & Animation
- Future New
- Jewelry
- Mixed Media
- Painting
- Photography
- Printmaking
- Sculpture
- Video Game Design
- Art Portfolio*

### Writing Categories
- Critical Essay
- Dramatic Script
- Flash Fiction
- Humor
- Journalism
- Novel Writing
- Personal Essay & Memoir
- Poetry
- Science Fiction & Fantasy
- Short Story
- Writing Portfolio*

*Graduating seniors only