

# 2016 ART COMPETITION GUIDELINES

## GENERAL GUIDELINES

- The competition is open to high school students only.
- **Students MUST provide a written explanation about their entry in order to help the judges understand the students' thoughts and purpose in creating the particular art piece.** The explanation (no longer than one page) should provide information that the student would want the judge to consider about his or her piece during the evaluation process. The student may attach the explanation to the back side of their artwork.
- In order to allow an artwork to hang in the Cannon Tunnel of the U.S. Capitol, the following restrictions are enforced:
  - All artwork must be framed to the appropriate framing guidelines (see framing guidelines).
  - Artwork must conform to these restrictions:
    - Piece must be two-dimensional.
    - Each framed piece can be **no larger** than 28"x 28" x 4" (28 inches high, 28 inches wide, and 4 inches deep) **including the frame.**
    - Artwork cannot weigh more than 15 pounds.
    - Each entry must be **original** in concept, design, and execution and may not violate any U.S. copyright laws. Any entry which 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.
    - Work entered must be in the original medium (that is, not a scanned reproduction of a painting or drawing).
- Artwork will hang in the Capitol for the **entire year** of the exhibition and **cannot** be returned to the student earlier. Students should, therefore, submit artwork they will not need for other purposes.
- Acceptable media for 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

## SUITABILITY GUIDELINES

- The final decision regarding the suitability of all artwork for the 2016 Congressional Art Competition exhibition in the Capitol will be made by a panel of qualified persons chaired by the Architect of the Capitol. 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.
- In accordance with this policy of the House Office Building Commission, exhibits depicting subjects of contemporary political controversy or a sensationalistic or gruesome nature are not allowed. It is necessary that all artwork be reviewed by the panel chaired by the Architect of the Capitol and any portion not in consonance with the Commission's policy will be omitted from the exhibit.

## STUDENT RELEASE AND INFORMATION FORM:

- Each entrant must submit a Student Information and Release Form.
- The information requested on the first page of the form should be provided as thoroughly as possible. Students should list 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, due to the large number of works that would fit that description. The following is an example of an acceptable description: "A painting of two people; the one on the left wears a green sweater and khaki pants; the one on the right wears a black shirt and 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 Release Form, signed by the teacher, the student, and a parent or guardian if the student is under 18, must be securely attached to the back of the artwork to certify the originality of the piece.
- Each work must have an adhesive label securely applied to the back. Please use the largest label you have available and type the requested information below:

Student Name  
Mailing Address  
Phone Number  
Title  
Medium  
Congressman Paul Ryan  
WI-01

## **FRAMING GUIDELINES (OVERALL WINNER)**

- **Please note that participating entries DO NOT have to be framed for the April 30 ceremony. However, the First Place Winner WILL BE responsible for following these framing guidelines and resubmitting their framed artwork before May 16, 2016.**
- **All winning artwork must be framed.** Frames must be made of wood or metal and should be kept as simple and sturdy as possible. No plastic “snap on” frames 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.
- All works, **including frame**, should be **no larger** than 28 inches high, 28 inches wide, and 4 inches deep, to the outside of the frame, and 15 pounds in weight. Due to wide participation of Member offices, framed work larger than the specified dimensions will be turned away.
- 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 eye hooks or the equivalent must be attached at the top right and the left sides of the back of the frame for hanging in order to prevent the work from leaning forward or hanging unevenly. Wire between the hooks is not needed.**
- Do not attach labels, ribbon, etc. to the front of the piece or underneath the glass or Plexiglas.
- If the artwork is abstract in design, please indicate on the back side which side is “up” with arrows pointing towards the top.
- As directed by the House Oversight and Standards of Official Conduct Committees, *each district winner is responsible for framing his or her own entry.*