



2026 RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

General Information

The rules and regulations included here apply to the 2026 Congressional Art Competition generally. Members of Congress may have additional rules for their districts. Please ask your Member's office if any additional rules apply and how to enter.

Who May Enter

The competition is open to high school students (8th-12th grades). Members may choose to include 7th and 8th grade students in the art competition if schools in their districts house 7th through 12th grades on one campus. Teachers and/or students should verify their eligibility with their Member's office.

Students should enter the competition in the district where they reside, not where they attend school.

Artwork must be the creation of a single student. Students may not collaborate on an entry.

Size Restrictions

Artwork must be two-dimensional. Each framed artwork can be **no larger** than **26 inches high, 26 inches wide, 4 inches deep, and 15 pounds**. 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 maximum dimensions.**

Acceptable Media

Work entered must be in the original medium (i.e., not a scanned reproduction of a painting, drawing, etc.).

Acceptable media are:

- 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 copied from an existing photo or image (including a painting, graphic, or advertisement) created by someone other than the student violates competition rules and **will not** be accepted. For more information on copyrights, we recommend you visit: <https://www.artandwriting.org/awards/how-to-enter/copyright-plagiarism/>

Artwork will hang in Washington, DC, from June 2026 to May 2027. Do not submit artwork that will be needed for other purposes during that period.

Suitability Guidelines: House Office Building Commission Policy

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

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.

Students should also include contact information that will be valid for several years. (For instance, students, especially seniors, should include a personal email address rather than a school email address.)

The second page of the Student Information and Release Form contains legal releases 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. Please retain a copy for your records.

Framing Guidelines (Overall Winner)

Framing regulations apply to the winning artwork that will be sent to Washington, DC. Your Member may require a frame as a condition of entry; please consult your Member’s office to see whether that is the case.

Even if your Member of Congress does not require a frame to enter the artwork in the district competition, **if your artwork wins, 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, 4 inches deep, and 15 pounds.**

Frames must be sturdy. Frames must be made of wood or metal. Do not use plastic “snap-on” or metal frames that can easily fall apart. All artwork, except paintings in oil or acrylic on canvas, must be protected by Plexiglas or glass. Plexiglas is preferred. Matting can enhance or detract from a work of art and should be carefully selected.

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.

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. Do not attach wire between the eye hooks.

