



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 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

