

Congressional Art Competition Guidelines 2005

Note: The competition is open to high school students only.

Artwork categories are as follows:

- Paintings (oil, acrylics, watercolor, etc.)
- Drawings (pastels, colored pencil, pencil, charcoal, ink, markers, etc.)
- Collage: must be two dimensional
- Prints (lithographs, silkscreen, block prints)
- Mixed media
- Computer generated art
- Photography

In order to allow a work of art to hang in the Cannon Tunnel of the U.S. Capitol, the following restrictions are necessary:

1. All artwork must be only two-dimensional.
2. Each work of art can be no larger than 32 inches by 32 inches to the outside dimensions of the frame and cannot be more than 4 inches in depth.
3. Artwork must arrive in Washington framed to the appropriate framing guidelines.
4. The Student Information/Release form must be signed by the teacher, parent and the student to certify the originality of the piece. Each entry must be an original in concept, design and execution and may not violate any U.S. copyright laws.
NOTE: Any entry that has been reproduced from an existing photo, painting or any other work produced by another person is a violation of the competition rules and will not be accepted.
5. The Student Information/Release form must be signed by the teacher, parent and the student to certify the originality of the piece.

Suitability Guidelines

The final decision regarding suitability for the 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 the situation of hanging artwork that is potentially controversial and inappropriate for display in the Capitol.

Artwork must adhere to the policy of the House Office Building Commission. In accordance with this policy, exhibits depicting subjects of contemporary political controversy or of 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 portions not in consonance with the Commission's policy will be omitted from the exhibit.

Framing Guidelines

As directed by the House Oversight and Standards of Official Conduct Committees, each district winner is responsible for framing his or her winning entry.

- Framed work should be no larger than 32 inches high, 32 inches wide, and 4 inches deep including the outside dimensions of the frame.
- Frames should be as simple and as sturdy as possible. Metal frames are recommended.
- Matting can enhance or detract from a work of art and should be carefully prepared.
- All work, except for oil paintings, should be protected by Plexiglas or glass.
- Plexiglas is better to use than glass over the artwork in order to avoid breakage.
- Use sturdy hangers. Two hooks should be attached at the top and at the right and the left sides of the back of the work in order to prevent the work from leaning forward or hanging unevenly.
- No “snap on” frames with glass are to be used. Since frames will be suspended by wire from overhead molding, please do not put wire between the hooks.
- 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 backside which side is up.