

2025 CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION

FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

GUIDELINES

**Artwork Categories are as follows:**

 **Paintings:** (oil, acrylics, watercolor, etc.)

 **Drawings:** (pastels, colored pencil, charcoal, ink, markers, etc.)

 **Collage:** must be two dimensional

 **Prints:** (lithographs, silkscreen, block prints)

 **Mixed media**

 **Computer generated art**

 **Photography**

* **Students can submit more than one piece**
* **All artwork submitted MUST BE matted if it is not framed**
* **Framing is Optional (see Framing Guidelines)**
* **Write your full name and school in the bottom right hand corner on the BACK of your piece (or use a label)**
* **Each piece must be submitted with an accompanying release form. Please note the release form is printed on the front and back and both sides must be completed before submitting your artwork.**
* **DO NOT tape your release form to the back of your piece.**

In order to allow artwork 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 piece can be no larger than 26 inches by 26 inches to the outside dimensions of the frame and cannot be more than 4 inches in depth. Artwork must not weigh more than 15lbs.
3. The Student Release Form must be signed by the Teacher, Parent or Guardian (if the student is not 18) AND the student to certify the originality of the piece. EACH piece submitted must have an accompanying release form.

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 portion not in consonance with the Commission’s policy will be omitted from the exhibit.

Framing Guidelines

The overall winner of the competition is responsible for framing his or her winning entry as directed by the House Oversight and Standards of Official Conduct Committees.

* Framed work should be no longer than 26 inches high, 26 inches wide, and 4 inches deep including the outside dimensions of the frame.
* Artwork and frame must not weigh more than 15 lbs.
* 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 painting, 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 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.