



Young Authors of Arizona's 2015 Scholastic Art Awards Participation Guide

Prepared for Arizona's grade 7-12 students, teachers, parents, & other art advocates

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YAA supporting you through the Scholastic Art Awards

Dear Young Authors, Educators, Parents, and Art Advocates:

[Young Authors of Arizona \(YAA\)](#), a non-profit of volunteer educators and other grade 7-12 language and media arts advocates, is Arizona's only affiliate in the 91-year history of the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. This guide focuses on helping Arizona art teachers and others mentor grade 7-12 students to enter and enjoy the Scholastic Art Awards, America's longest-running, most prestigious recognition program and source of scholarships for young authors (artists). Between now and December 17th, this year's entry window, we're here to help you.

[Each of the Art Awards' categories](#) gives grade 7-12 students creative options to meet State Standards while offering unique participation incentives for Arizona's teachers, fine and performing arts departments, schools, districts, and clubs. Starting this year, for example, Arizona's teachers can offer your grade 7-12 arts students the incentive to revise their works by competing to *earn* publication space.

Last spring YAA localized the *The Alliance for Young Artists & Writers'* annual [Best Teen Writing](#) book concept, a collection of the nation's best grade 7-12 writing. YAA did this by selecting from 2014 Gold Key and Silver Key Awards honorees works to create the first ever *Best Of* teen anthology in state history: [Bloom: Best Arizona Teen Writing of 2014](#) (see page 14 for more details). [As noted by Arizona Republic columnist E.J. Montini in his column "OMG – these Arizona kids can write,"](#) the efforts of these 63 teens have earned them the distinction of "published authors." Of the students published in "Bloom" included the work of student graphic artist for the cover. For the 2014-2015 school year, teachers and teens statewide can use this annual, teachable, affordable book in classrooms and libraries: by our young authors, for Arizona. Those interested can [purchase a Bloom copy on Amazon.com](#) or [order discounted class sets through Phoenix Book Company](#); if you order through Phoenix Book Company, follow the previous link and reference the following ISBN# in your order: 1490367187. As for publishing a "best of" Arizona art publication, YAA will break ground this year by incorporating art awards winners in this year's book. One of these distinguished art pieces will be selected as the cover art for the best of Arizona book as well.

YAA also welcomes Arizona's most innovative language and media arts teachers, organizations, and others to share your talents by partnering with YAA (see page 4 and go to: [yaarizona.poll daddy.com/s/yaainvolvement](#)) and earning professional development credit as 2015 Awards judges (see page 10).

Enjoy this guide and the following digital resources to help you participate in the 2015 Scholastic Art Awards and with the YAA.

- For Awards rules and updates, to YAA's Art Awards affiliate web page at [artandwriting.org/affiliate/AZ001A](#).
- To register student Scholastic accounts, go to: [www.artandwriting.org/ors/registration](#).
- For writing tips, organization news, and more, go to [YAArizona.org](#) and subscribe to email updates.
- This guide is available for download on [YAArizona.org](#) and our Scholastic art page. Interested grade 7-12 authors and advocates of original, technically proficient, and uncensored authorship are welcome to view, share, and show this guide and other resources with Arizona's grade 7-12 students, teachers, teacher prep programs, clubs, galleries, libraries, community centers, and more.

Thank You for being and encouraging Young Authors of Arizona,

Young Authors of Arizona

90 years of creativity and excellence

History of the nation's most prestigious teen art and writing competition

Since 1923 the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards have recognized our nation's exceptional youth, providing an annual opportunity for grade 7-12 students to be noticed for their creative talents.

Past participants include artists like Andy Warhol and Cy Twombly, writers Sylvia Plath, Truman Capote, Ned Vizzini, and Joyce Carol Oates, photographer Richard Avedon, actors Frances Farmer, Robert Redford, Alan Arkin, and John Lithgow, filmmaker Ken Burns, and [many more](#). Outside the arts, Awards' alumni become leaders in fields like journalism, medicine, finance, government and civil affairs, law, science, toy design, etc.

Students' submissions are judged by luminaries in the visual and literary arts, some of whom have also been past award recipients, and many notable past jurors have lent their expertise, including Francine Prose, Paul Giamatti, Langston Hughes, Robert Frost, Judy Blume, Paula Poundstone, Billy Collins, David Sedaris, Roz Chast, and [more](#).

Today, grade 7-12 teens (from public, private, or home schools) can apply in 28 categories of art and writing to earn scholarships and have their works exhibited or published. In the last five years, students submitted nearly 900,000 original works of art and writing. During that time over 60 arts institutes and colleges have sponsored the Awards to make \$40 million in scholarships and aid available to regional and national Awards winners.

Alliance for Young Artists & Writers

The Alliance for Young Artists & Writers was founded in 1994, as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, to present the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards and expand upon the Awards' legacy of bringing exceptional artistic and literary talent of teens to a national audience. Today the Alliance works with 100-plus [regional affiliate programs](#) nationwide to bring The Awards to local communities and over 60 [scholarship partners](#). 2012-13 marked the 90th Anniversary of The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. See: [90 years of creativity](#).

Core Alliance Values

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, Alliance for Young Artists and Writers, and the Young Authors of Arizona (YAA) embrace the following core values.

Scholarship: More than \$250,000 is given annually through the Scholastic Awards program in awards and scholarships to top winners and their educators. In addition, more than \$8 million in scholarships is set aside each year by our partners for recipients of the Awards. Seniors earning National Medals are eligible to receive scholarships through partnerships with esteemed colleges and universities.

Recognition: Each year, affiliates and the Alliance provide positive recognition to young authors, including the national celebration ceremony annually held at New York City's Carnegie Hall. Select 2015 YAA authors will be invited to attend the ceremony in May of 2015 (see page 14).

Exhibition: The Alliance also holds ongoing exhibitions at the U.S. Department of Education and the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities and in cities across the country via the ART.WRITE.NOW national touring exhibition.

Publication: Selections from The Awards are published in the Best Teen Writing, which are distributed free of charge to schools and libraries nationwide.

About Young Authors of Arizona (YAA)

Since 2012, YAA has facilitated the Scholastic Writing Awards in the state of Arizona. All entry fees go toward YAA's affiliate fee with the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers, hosting our annual spring awards ceremony, and extending community outreach to Arizonans. Working pro-bono, we encourage young authors.

Thanks to individuals and sponsorship from the Arizona English Teachers Association (AETA), in 2012 YAA became Arizona's first Scholastic Writing Awards affiliate in Awards' history. Our inaugural year blazed the authorship trail with 200-plus Scholastic Writing Awards entries from grade 7-12 students from Bullhead City to Phoenix to Tucson.

Scottsdale's Coronado High School hosted the spring ceremony, where Valley poets Tomas Stanton and Myrlin Hepworth wowed the crowd. Five Arizona authors earned invites to Carnegie Hall in May, and 14-year old Haley Lee became Arizona's first American Voices Medal winner. Haley's poem, "They Are the Patriots," earned publication in the national *Best Teen Writing of 2012* book.

2013 saw entries increase: Arcadia High School in Phoenix hosted a spring ceremony that featured a Skype chat with author Jessica Brody. Six young authors earned invites to the national ceremony. Haley Lee repeated as our American Voices Medal winner, and two works earned publication in the national *Best Teen Writing of 2013* book: Lee's poem "Expanding" and 13-year old Gloria Martinez's science fiction/fantasy story "Don't Be Afraid of the Dark."

2014, the year YAA grew into a non-profit, saw even more entries and needed a bigger venue for the spring ceremony: Mountain View High School in Mesa, highlighted by Hepworth, author Tom Leveen, and Arizona's Poet Laureate Alberto Rios. At the national level, eight Arizona entries earned invitations to Carnegie Hall, and 14-year-old Nicole Dominiak earned the Arizona's American Voices Medal for her short story "Gifts, Ghosts, and God." Bloom: Best Arizona Teen Writing of 2014 was not only Arizona's first best of teen anthology, it was America's only Scholastic Awards best of anthology. Some key precedents and organizational growth have truly made 2014 a year of, well, "bloom" for YAA.

YAA emerging as a non-profit

YAA is a State of Arizona nonprofit organized exclusively for educational and charitable purposes, within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. Without limiting ourselves, YAA is focused on growing responsibly and is now positioned to:

- a. Conceive, develop, implement, sponsor, and maintain progress in all aspects of language and media arts, which will advance the interests of and provide the incentive for the growth and appreciation by the public of language and media arts in Arizona and beyond.
- b. Undertake projects that will encourage and assist young authors and young-author advocates by helping them achieve standards of excellence and bringing these projects before the public.
- c. Strengthen scholarship, research, creative work, publication, exhibition, and performance in language and media arts throughout Arizona and beyond.

Call for Arizona's language and media arts leaders to help YAA "Bloom"

Our state has over 1,600 middle schools and high schools. Started in May of 2014, YAA's "Bloom!" outreach campaign seeks to involve more Arizonans with the 2015 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards as the scope and centerpiece for our growth. We welcome involvement from:

1. Professional language and media arts leaders—teachers, librarians, sponsors, luminaries—to support and promote this book.
2. Educators, parents, and volunteers to be outreach leaders in specific counties, districts, and professional communities.
3. Students to enter the 2015 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards by December 17, 2014.
4. Business and civic leaders, volunteer educators and parents, and other supporters to forge financial partnerships with YAA to create scholarships for Awards participants and to continue growing YAA.

Interested in sharing your talents with the YAA? Fill out our survey at: <http://yaarizona.poll daddy.com/s/yaainvolvement>

2015 Scholastic Arts Awards submission categories

The following section lists the writing categories available for young authors of Arizona to enter. All category submissions somehow fall under Arizona's Common Core Fine Arts, Performing Arts, and Language Arts standards. Works may be created in class or outside of school. This year, Arizona can use the Scholastic Art Awards to incentivize students to revise a major first semester project. Go to artandwriting.org/the-awards/categories/#ArtCategories for more specific category descriptions.

Architecture

Category Description: plans for or models of structures and environments

Sample entries: Building designs, landscape designs, interior designs, urban plans.

Special Instructions: Plans may be hand-drawn or computer-generated. Models must be sturdy and able to endure shipping and exhibition.

Submissions: You can upload four images for each Architecture submission.

[Click here to see examples of previous winning works in this category.](#)

Additional Instructions: If you are submitting a 2-D work (a design as opposed to a model), select "0" for the "Depth" and "Weight" fields.

Work Type: 3-D Work (Height x Width x Diameter and Weight)

Ceramics & Glass

Category Description: functional objects made from ceramics or glass

Sample entries: Vases, teapots, bowls, plates, cups, tiles, tableware or vessels. Ceramics may include earthenware, stoneware, porcelain, etc. Glass may include stained, cast, fused, blown, etc.

Special Instructions:

- Unfired ceramics and oil-based clay works should not be submitted.
- Submit ceramic or glass sculptures, such as busts, figures or abstract forms in the Sculpture category.
- Ceramic or glass pieces intended to be worn for personal adornment should be submitted in the Jewelry category.

Submissions: You can upload four images for each Ceramics & Glass submission.

[Click here to see examples of previous winning works in this category.](#)

Work Type: 3-D Work (Height x Width x Diameter and Weight)

Comic Art

Category Description: pictorial narrative, with or w/out text, telling a story via multiple frames or panels

Sample entries: Comic strips/books, storyboards, web comics, and selections from graphic novels.

Special Instructions: Do not base characters and plots on already published comic books or published series.

Submissions: You can upload up to eight images for each Comic Art submission. We highly recommend that you enter any text in the field provided on the upload page. Each image has its own field in which you can enter text. This will ensure jurors can read your work during judging.

[Click here to see examples of previous winning works in this category.](#)

Additional Instructions: If your submission consist of more than one page, please indicate how many pages are in your submission in the space provided above.

Work Type: 2-D Work (Height x Width)

Design

Category Description: art with a defined function like advertising, communications, or product design

Sample entries: Yearbook layouts, book covers, greeting cards, business cards, signage, as well as product proposals for electronic devices, cars, bicycles, skateboards, furniture, toys, etc.

Special Instructions: Garments intended to be worn should be entered in the Fashion category. Works designed to be worn for personal adornment should be entered in the jewelry category.

Submissions: You can upload four images for each Design submission.

[Click here to see examples of previous winning works in this category.](#)

Additional Instructions: Identify computer software used in the “List Materials” section of the online submission form. Digital artwork may contain text, but submissions that contains text for commercial purposes should be entered in the Design category. Works that are “touched up” or lightly manipulated using computer software should be entered in their respective categories. For example, lightly manipulated digital photography should be entered in the Photography category. Work with a strong interactive element should be submitted in the Video Game Design Category. If you are using collaged images, please refer to the copyright and plagiarism guide.

Work Type: 3-D Work (Height x Width x Diameter and Weight)

Digital Art

Category Description: computer-generated art or art captured digitally & manipulated to create new image

Sample entries: Digital collages, photo manipulation, digital painting, and fractal art.

Special Instructions: Identify computer software used in the “List Materials” section of the online submission form.

Digital artwork may contain text, but submissions that contains text for commercial purposes should be entered in the Design category. Digital photographs that are “touched up” or lightly manipulated using computer software should be entered in the Photography category. Consider submitting to the Video Game category or Future New category if your work has a strong interactive element. If you are using collaged images, please refer to the [copyright and plagiarism](#) guide.

Submissions: You can upload one image for each Digital Art submission.

[Click here to see examples of previous winning works in this category.](#)

Work Type: 2-D Work (Height x Width)

Drawing and Illustration

Category Description: art drawn manually on a two-dimensional surface

Sample entries: Pencil, ink, charcoal, pastel, crayon, scratchboard, marker, etc.

Special Instructions: Drawings copied from published photographs, the internet or existing works should not be submitted and will be disqualified. Please refer to the copyright and plagiarism guide for more detailed information.

Submissions: You can upload one image for each Drawing submission.

[Click here to see examples of previous winning works in this category.](#)

Additional Instructions: Digital Illustrations should be entered in the Digital Art category. Sequential illustrations should be entered in the Comic Art category.

Work Type: 2-D Work (Height x Width)

Fashion

Category Description: Wearable articles of clothing or fashion accessories other than jewelry

Sample entries: Fully-realized articles and outfits, sketches, tech packs, jackets, dresses, shirts, gowns, scarves, hats, bags, belts, shoes, experimental designs, work made from found materials.

Special Instructions: Garments not intended to be worn on the body should be submitted to the Sculpture category.

Submissions: You can upload four images for each Fashion submission.

[Click here to see examples of previous winning works in this category.](#)

Additional Instructions: If you are submitting a 2-D work (a design as opposed to a model), select "0" for the "Depth" and "Weight" fields.

Work Type: 3-D Work (Height x Width x Diameter and Weight)

Film & Animation

Category Description: sequence of moving images viewed with a monitor, television, or projector

Sample entries: Documentaries, narrative films, commercials, experimental video, as well as hand-drawn, computer-generated, or stop-motion animations, etc.

Special Instructions:

- Do not mail a DVD with your submission forms. All media must be uploaded to the online registration system.
- During registration, identify equipment and software used in the "List Materials" section.
- Since the Awards are blindly judged, please do not include any credits in your film.

Copyrighted Music: Students cannot use copyrighted music in their work without the permission of the original artist. Students who obtain copyrights to music must obtain documentation from the artist and send it with their submission form. The Alliance for Young Artists & Writers strongly encourages use of original or public domain music. See copyright release section of guidelines.

Submissions:

For Film & Animation submissions longer than 5 minutes, please upload the following:

1. A five-minute-or-under version of your film (the file size limit for this upload is 350MB)
2. The full-length version of your film.

For Film & Animation submissions less than 5 minutes, this second upload does not apply to you—please do NOT upload a higher resolution of the same film. The file size limit for this upload is 800MB.

- Your film must be in one of the following formats: .mp4, .mov, .wmv, .avi, .mpg, .mpeg.
- You must enter the film synopsis in the provided text editor.

Collaboration: A Film & Animation submission can include up to 5 collaborators. A collaborative Film & Animation entry should only be registered ONCE for judging: choose one student to create an account and upload the work -- this student can then identify up to four collaborators on the Edit Info page. If the other collaborators are not listed when the work is submitted they will not be eligible to receive an Award. ALL COLLABORATORS MUST MEET THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS. Please email info@artandwriting.org if you have questions about collaborative submissions.

[Click here to see examples of previous winning works in this category.](#)

Additional Instructions: Make sure you have the most up-to-date version of the Microsoft Silverlight plug in before uploading Film & Animation submissions.

You can download the newest version at: www.microsoft.com/silverlight/

Work Type: Time-based Work (Minutes: Seconds)

Jewelry

Category Description: art objects worn for personal adornment

Sample entries: Bracelets, rings, brooches, earrings, cufflinks, necklaces, etc.

Submissions: You can upload four images for each Jewelry submission.

[Click here to see examples of previous winning works in this category.](#)

Work Type: 3-D Work (Height x Width x Diameter and Weight)

Mixed Media

Category Description: art made from more than one medium, usually with a three-dimensional element

Sample entries: Collage, assemblage, cut paper, handmade paper, batik, fiber-based art, art books, etc.

Special Instructions:

- Combinations of painting and drawing applied only to one surface should be submitted to either the Painting or Drawing categories.
- Mixed media assemblages meant to be viewed in the round should be submitted in the Sculpture category.

Submissions: You can upload four images for each Mixed Media submission.

[Click here to see examples of previous winning works in this category.](#)

Additional Instructions: If your mixed media submission does not have a 3D element, select "0" for the "Depth" and "Weight" fields.

Work Type: 3-D Work (Height x Width x Diameter and Weight)

Painting

Category Description: Art created by applying pigment to a two-dimensional surface.

Sample entries: Oil, acrylic, watercolor, gouache, tempera, ink, encaustic, fresco, spray paint, etc. applied on canvas, canvas board, paper or any flat surface.

Special Instructions: Paintings copied from published photographs, the internet, or existing works should not be submitted and will be disqualified. Please refer to the copyright and plagiarism guide for more detailed information.

Submissions: You can upload one image for each Painting submission.

[Click here to see examples of previous winning works in this category.](#)

Work Type: 2-D Work (Height x Width)

Photography

Category Description: Images captured by either an analog or digital camera.

Sample entries: Black and white photographs, color photographs, digital or analog photographs, photograms, other experimental photography, etc.

Special Instructions:

- Identify type of photographic techniques used in the "List Materials" section of online registration.
- Editing software (Adobe Photoshop, Corel PaintShop Photo Pro, Photo Explosion, etc.) is acceptable to use for minor touch-ups and image correction in a manner that replicates traditional darkroom techniques (cropping, dodging, burning, adjusting brightness, contrast, color balance, etc).
- Works digitally collaged, cloned, layered, merged, distorted, or heavily manipulated with computer software must be submitted in the Digital Art category.

Submissions: You can upload one image for each Photography submission.

[Click here to see examples of previous winning works in this category.](#) **Work Type:** 2-D Work (Height x Width)

Printmaking

Category Description: Art made by printing on a flat surface.

Sample entries: Monotype, collograph, woodcut/linocut, intaglio, lithography, etching, silkscreen, etc.

Special Instructions: Identify the printmaking technique used in the “List Materials” section of online registration.

Submissions: For each Printmaking submission, you can upload one image.

[Click here to see examples of previous winning works in this category.](#)

Work Type: 2-D Work (Height x Width)

Sculpture

Category Description: 3-dimensional art objects created by carving, casting, or other shaping techniques

Sample entries: Modeled, carved, cast, constructed, or assembled objects from clay, cardboard, metal, wood, glass, stone, textiles, plastics, found objects, etc.

Special Instructions: Large-scale installation art should be submitted in the Future New category.

Submissions: You can upload four images for each Sculpture submission.

[Click here to see examples of previous winning works in this category.](#)

Work Type: 3-D Work (Height x Width x Diameter and Weight)

Special Categories

Art Portfolio (for graduating seniors only)

Category Description: Art portfolios must include 8 different artworks. The works can come from one category or any combination of multiple categories listed on this page. Seniors may submit up to two Art Portfolios, but may not submit the same work in both portfolios. Video Game and Future New Submissions may not be submitted as part of an Art Portfolio.

Special Instructions: In addition to the artwork, students must submit a 300 – 750 word Artist Statement answer the following questions:

- Why did you select the work you submitted for your Art Portfolio?
- How do you hope people will react when they view your work?
- What role does art play in your life?
- Artist statements may be entered on the “Create Portfolio” page.
- Work included in a portfolio may be submitted in an individual category (i.e. Drawing and Illustration, Mixed Media, etc.). You will be able to indicate if you want to submit a work a part of a portfolio only, and an individual submission only, or both on your student dashboard.
- Seniors may resubmit artworks submitted in a previous Scholastic Awards competition as part of their Art Portfolio.

Submissions: Each work within the Art Portfolio is subject to the same upload rules as its equivalent in individual categories. For example, a sculpture entry as part of a portfolio is allowed up to four images, while a photography entry is allowed one image.

Full 2015 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards category listings

Please Note:	Art Categories	Writing Categories	Special Categories and Sponsored Awards**
Students may not	Architecture	Critical Essay	Best-in-Grade
submit the same work	Ceramics & Glass	Dramatic Script	Creativity and Citizenship
in different categories	Comic Art	Flash Fiction	Duck Tape Brand Award
	Design	Humor	Future New (and 3D Systems Award)
	Digital Art	Journalism	Gedenk Award
Seniors may submit	Drawing and Illustration	Personal Essay/Memoir	Novel Writing
two Art Portfolios and	Fashion	Poetry	Video Games
one Writing Portfolio.	Film & Animation	Science Fiction & Fantasy	
	Jewelry	Short Story	
	Mixed Media	Writing Portfolio *	
	Painting		
	Photography		
	Printmaking		
	Sculpture		
	Art Portfolio *		
<p>* Only graduating seniors may submit Art and Writing Portfolios</p> <p>** All Special Categories and Sponsored Awards are offered at the National level only. Click HERE for more information about these additional opportunities for creative teens.</p>			

Submitting your work

This section is meant to help students, teachers, and parents submit your work for the 2015 Scholastic Art Awards.

Eligibility and Submission Guidelines

Every Arizona student in grades 7 – 12 is eligible to submit to the Awards. Limits on student submissions, whether by school, student or teacher, are strongly discouraged. All submission guidelines may be found under [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the artandwriting.org website.

Further submission questions may be answered by e-mailing Jon Jeffery at: jon4yaa@gmail.com

Instructions for all art categories

- All work is judged digitally, so submissions must follow the digital submission instructions.
- Entrees are not complete without a signed and mailed submission form and payment.

Submission deadline: December 17, 2014

If ready, artists are encouraged to submit entries as soon as possible. All 2015 Scholastic Art Awards entries must be:

- Uploaded online by 9:00 PM MST on Monday, December 17, 2013 (see “online upload” below)
- Submission entry envelopes postmarked by December 17th (see “entry envelope” below)
- Submissions uploaded and/or postmarked after December 17th will not be accepted.

Online registration and upload

All students entering work in the 2015 Scholastic Art Awards must first create your account and register through the Alliance’s Online Registration System (ORS), which they can now access at www.artandwriting.org/ors/registration. For teachers helping your class participate, you’re encouraged to create a teacher account, and then spend one class period this semester helping students register online. Between now and the December 17th deadline, students may upload their work through the Online Registration System (ORS). Students can upload works independently but may need help.

Requirement for upload of entries submitted as image files are as follows:

- Must all be digital files
- Print size of images must be 5 inches by 7 inches or larger at a resolution of 300 ppi
- Students can scan photos are 100% if applicable

Printing and completing your submission form

After completing the online registration and upload, the student must:

1. Print the submission form
2. Obtain required signatures from a teacher and parent. Parent signatures are not required if the student is 18 years or older. Registration is not complete until the submission form has been signed and submission fees have been received by the YAA.

Submission fees

All checks payable to: Young Authors of Arizona (YAA)

Individual submission fees: Each submission is \$5 *per work* unless you qualify for a fee waiver (read "Fee Waiver" below).

If entering more than one submission, write one check for all your submission fees.

Example: If you enter one jewelry and one photography piece, you're welcome to submit a \$10 check instead of two \$5 checks.

Poetry submissions: Because this category requires you to submit 1-5 poems together in a collection, you only have to pay \$5 per collection.

Example: If your poetry collection has five poems, don't pay \$25; you only need to pay \$5.

Senior Portfolio submission fees: \$20 per portfolio submission.

Fee Waiver

Students who financially qualify under the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch program may have your 2015 Scholastic Writing Award entry fees waived. If applicable, you must include:

1. A typed letter with your submission form(s) stating that you qualify under the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch program to have your 2015 Scholastic Writing entry fee(s) waived. The typed letter needs to be signed by a school administrator or counselor.

Mailing your entry envelope

Each young author should submit all of his or her entry material together in a single envelop. If you're a teacher with numerous students entering, you're welcome to submit all student entry envelopes in one bigger envelope or box. Some teachers have also collected entry money from students, and then submitted one check for all student entries.

Each young (artist) author needs the following in his or her entry envelope:

1. A printed submission form *for each entry*. Each form must be completely filled out and signed.
2. One check for all of that young author's 2015 Scholastic Art Awards entries.

Mail entries to:

2015 Scholastic Art Awards
Attn: Jon Jeffery
Mountain View High School
2700 E. Brown Rd.
Mesa, AZ 85213

Judging process and criteria

The following section gives students and teachers the 2015 Scholastic Writing Awards judging process and scoring criteria.

Judging Criteria

Jurors will use the following criteria to evaluate all submissions:

- 1.) Originality:** Judges will look for works that are original, fresh, inventive, and contain a strong concept of feeling at the core.
- 2.) Technical Skill:** Judges look for technical competence as demonstrated through a mastery of the conventions of a particular medium. In addition, judges will look for inventive style and will be sensitive to works that demonstrate a willingness to take risks and to experiment with content and form, when appropriate.
- 3.) Emergence of a Personal Voice:** Judges will look for the emergence of a unique style, sensibility and perspective.

Freedom of Expression

There are no restrictions on subject matter in The Scholastic Writing Awards. The YAA expects that some works by teenagers may be controversial in nature, grappling with identity, violence, politics, religion, sex, environment, human rights, etc. Judges must select work based on its successful execution, the subject matter being part of the originality and voice criteria.

Plagiarism and copyright

The Alliance's plagiarism policy states:

"All work must be executed by the student... By applying to The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, each student undertakes (a) to present an original work that (i) has been created by her or himself and (ii) does not infringe upon the intellectual property rights of any other individual or entity and (b) if such student's work incorporates material... not created by the student, to include an additional copy of any and all such source material in her or his application."

Students signing their Scholastic Writing Awards submission forms agree to have read and fully understood all requirements for the program, including the authorship//originality policy sections. If a student violates the policy, the student's Award(s) must be revoked and all designations must be removed from any publications or places where they are displayed or mentioned. The Alliance will also revoke authorization or consent to display or distribute the work or any mention of the award designations relating to the work.

YAA jurors

All works are judged by a select panel of volunteer media arts experts, each knowing nothing about the author during the judging process. Judges include professors, current or retired teachers, working and established artists, art gallery owners and staff, graduate students in related fields, publishers and editors, members of various media and creative fields, etc.

Volunteer as a judge and earn professional growth credit

Judging submissions promotes student academic growth and facilitates extracurricular writing participation. Accordingly, 2014 YAA volunteer judges earned district credit for professional development and you can earn the same in 2015; it's notable that professional development credit policies vary by district.

Each judge will: choose your preferred art categories to judge, do all training and judging in January of 2015, and get a professional development certificate for one hour (training) plus the number of hours you spend judging.

To volunteer or ask general judging questions, fill out the [YAA involvement survey](#) or e-mail Jon Jeffery at jon4yaa@gmail.com.

Arizona's Scholastic Art Award designations

Based on the Scholastic Writing Awards judging criteria and the above rubric, Arizona's grade 7-12 Scholastic Writing participants may earn:

- **Honorable Mention**—The YAA may recognize submissions that demonstrate creative potential and nearly earn “Silver Key” status. Student, teacher, and family will be invited to the 2015 YAA State Ceremony; author will be recognized with an Honorable Mention certificate and teacher will earn a mentor pin, and the “Honorable Mention” work will be invited for online publication on YAA's Awards page gallery.
- **Silver Key**—Media demonstrates achievement worthy of YAA recognition. Student, teacher, and family will be invited to the 2015 YAA State Ceremony; author will be recognized with a Silver Key lapel pin and certificate, teacher will earn a mentor pin, and the “Silver Key” work will be invited for online publication through on YAA's Awards page gallery and YAA websites. Select Silver Key works *may* earn invitation for publication in a YAA “best of” 2015 publication.
- **Gold Key**—Media demonstrating the highest levels of achievement in technique, originality, and personal voice. Student, teacher, and family will be invited to the 2015 YAA State Ceremony; author will be recognized with a Gold Key lapel pin and certificate, teacher will earn a mentor pin, and the “Gold Key” work will be invited for online publication through the Alliance and YAA websites. Select Gold Key works *may* earn invitation for publication in a YAA “best of” 2015 publication. Students are recognized with Gold Key lapel pins and certificates. YAA will forward Gold Key entries to New York City for National Adjudication and the author *may* earn an invitation to the National Scholastic Art and Writing Awards Ceremony in May of 2015 at Carnegie Hall in New York City.
- **American Voices Nominees**—These works will be reviewed by a special YAA judging panel for the American Voices Award. Five Gold Key writing submissions will be nominated as “Best in State.” YAA will forward all five American Voices Nominee works for National Adjudication and authors may earn an invitation to the National Scholastic Art and Writing Awards Ceremony in May of 2015 at Carnegie Hall.
- **American Voices Award**—Of the five American Voices nominees, one National American Voices Award recipient will be recognized as the “Best in State” for Arizona and earn an invitation to the National Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Ceremony in May of 2015 at Carnegie Hall.

Invitation to April 11th YAA Scholastic Writing Awards 2015 State Ceremony

The State Ceremony is one of the experiences that make receiving a Scholastic Award so meaningful for the students, their families, teachers and broader community. All Honorable Mention, Silver Key, and Gold Key authors will be notified by email and phone in February of 2015 and are encouraged to “save the date” for this year's April 11th ceremony. **To help plan or sponsor this year's ceremony, go to: <http://yaarizona.poll daddy.com/s/yaainvolvement>**

Invitation to Scholastic Art and Writing Awards 2015 National Ceremony

Each year the YAA's American Voices Award winner will be invited to attend the National Ceremony at Carnegie Hall in May. In 2012 five YAA authors, in 2013 six authors, and in 2014 eight authors earned invites to New York.

Invitation to earn space as a published author in YAA's Best of publications

Arizona's 2015 Scholastic Writing Award American Voices nominees, Gold Key authors (and artists), and Silver Key authors (and artists) *may* earn space in YAA's *Best of Arizona Teen Art & Writing of 2015* publications.