2009 Congressional Art Competition Guidelines

General Guidelines

- The competition is open to high school students only. Exceptions will be made for schools that have 7th through 12th grades on one campus. Each Member office can choose whether or not to include 7th and 8th grades in the art competition if there are schools in their district that fit these criteria.

- Official resources are to be used only to the extent authorized by the Committee on House Administration and the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

- In order to allow artwork to hang in the Cannon Tunnel of the U.S. Capitol, the following restrictions are enforced:
  - Artwork must be two-dimensional.
  - Each piece can be **no larger** than 30"x30"x4" (30 inches high, 30 inches wide, and 4 inches deep) including the frame. Artwork cannot weigh more than 15 lbs.
  - Each entry must be original in concept, design, and execution and may not violate any U.S. copyright laws. Any entry which has been reproduced from an existing photo (not the student's own), painting, graphic, advertisement, or any other work produced by another person is a violation of the competition rules and **will not** be accepted.
  - All winning artwork must be framed according to the framing guidelines listed below.

- Artwork will hang in the Capitol for the entire year of the exhibition and cannot be returned to students earlier. Students, therefore, should submit artwork they will not need for other purposes.

- Artwork categories are as follows:
  - Paintings: oil, acrylics, watercolor, etc.
  - Drawings: pastels, colored pencil, pencil, charcoal, ink, markers
  - Collage: must be two dimensional
  - Prints: lithographs, silkscreen, block prints
  - Mixed Media: use of more than two mediums such as pencil, ink, etc.
  - Computer generated art
  - Photography

- A **TYPED** copy of the Student Release form, signed by both the teacher and the student, must be attached to the artwork to certify the originality of the piece.

- The final decision regarding the suitability of all artwork for the 2009 Congressional Art Competition exhibition in the Capitol will be made by a panel of qualified persons chaired by the Architect of 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 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.

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Framing Guidelines

- **Framing guidelines apply only to the ONE winning artist/artwork that will be sent to Washington, DC.**

- **All artwork must be framed.** Frames should be kept as simple and sturdy as possible. Metal frames are recommended. No "snap on" frames with glass are to be used.

- All artwork must be protected by Plexiglas or glass. Plexiglas is preferred. If glass is used, cover the entire surface completely with masking tape prior to shipping.

- All works, **including frame**, should be **no larger** than 30 inches high, 30 inches wide, and 4 inches deep, and 15lbs in weight. This includes the outside dimensions of the frame. Please double check size before sending the entry to Washington, DC. Due to wide participation of Member offices, framed work larger than the specified dimensions will be turned away.

- Matting can enhance or detract from a work of art and should be carefully prepared.

- Use sturdy picture hangers on the back of the frame. Two sturdy eye hooks should be attached at the right and the left sides of the back of the work for hanging in order to prevent the work from leaning forward or hanging unevenly. Do not put wire between the hooks for hanging, these will be added when the artwork is hung in the Capitol.

- 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" with arrows.

- As directed by the House Oversight and Standards of Official Conduct Committees, each district winner is responsible for framing his or her own entry. Any hardship cases should be assisted at the district level; works can no longer be framed by the Architect of the Capitol.

- A **TYPED** copy of the Student Information & Release Form must be securely attached to the back of the artwork.