

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

America:

THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD

The 250th Anniversary Art & Writing Competition

Who can participate? Open to students in grades 3–12 nationwide, including public, private, charter, homeschool, and micro-school students.

How many entries can be submitted? Each student may submit **one artwork** and **one written reflection**. Submissions close after the **first 1,500 entries are received**.

What types of artwork are allowed? Original **painting, drawing, or collage** only. Photography or mixed media outside these types is not accepted.

What size should the artwork be? For PDF submissions, artwork should be approximately 8.5 x 11 inches. Larger artwork may be photographed, but images must be legible when converted to PDF.

How should submissions be formatted? Submit via the online portal in **PDF format**. You may upload up to **two PDFs** — one for art and one for writing.

How long can the written response be? 500 words or fewer.

Do parents need to be involved? Yes. Students **under 18** must have a **parent or legal guardian submit their entry**, including all consent forms and waivers.

How are entries judged? All submissions are evaluated on merit by a **panel of judges**, within grade bands, for clarity, originality, craftsmanship, and historical understanding.

What prizes are awarded? Top two entries per grade division:

- Grades 9–12: 1st Prize \$1,500; 2nd Prize \$750
- Grades 6–8: 1st Prize \$1,000; 2nd Prize \$500
- Grades 3–5: 1st Prize \$500; 2nd Prize \$250

Are there incentives for teachers? Yes. Teachers with **winning students** or whose classrooms have **75% or more participation** are eligible for:

- Patriotic and civic-themed book bundles
- Classroom resources
- Special recognition

What happens to the top entries? The top **250 submissions** will be published in a commemorative coffee-table book in **late 2026**.

When are submissions due? Submissions open **March 15** and close on **Memorial Day**, or once **1,500 entries** have been received.

