

**2015 Congressional Art Competition  
5<sup>th</sup> District South Carolina  
Copyright Guidelines**

As we accept artwork for the Congressional Art Competition in the 5<sup>th</sup> District South Carolina, we apply the guidelines and criteria as published at:

[http://www.house.gov/content/educate/art\\_competition/pdf/2015\\_Rules\\_for\\_Students\\_and\\_Teachers.pdf](http://www.house.gov/content/educate/art_competition/pdf/2015_Rules_for_Students_and_Teachers.pdf)

We pay particular attention to the size of the work and its compliance with U.S. copyright laws. It is vital that we do this at the district level prior to judging, so we can eliminate any issues before the winning piece arrives in Washington, DC and save a lot of heartache and embarrassment. The Curator of the Capitol, Barbara Wolanin, is the final authority as to suitability of the artwork for compliance with the competition's rules. She and a panel of three curators review all the artwork prior to hanging in the Cannon Tunnel. Any artwork found to violate the size or copyright rules cannot be displayed.

In previous years, we encountered a few instances of possible size and copyright violations. We brought these pieces to the attention of Curator of the Capitol, and she determined that these pieces violated the size and copyright restrictions. We chose to allow the intake of these pieces for exhibition, but they were not included in the pieces to be judged. It is the policy of the 5<sup>th</sup> District of South Carolina Congressional Art Competition to continue to follow this process for future art competitions. Any piece believed to violate the guidelines referenced above will be referred to the Curator of the Capitol for a suitability determination. If a work is found to have violated the guidelines, it will be exhibited at the district level competition but will not be judged for display at the Capitol.

It is imperative that art students inform themselves of the relevant statutes and regulations relating to copyright. **This document does not constitute a legal opinion as to the nature and extent of copyright law or what may qualify as a violation of a copyright. It is for informational purposes only and should not be relied on in making a determination if a particular work does or does not violate a copyright. If you have questions about whether a particular work violates a copyright, please consult the US Copyright Office or an attorney.**

Copyrights are inherent to the creator, are owned by the creator, and do not need to be registered. Copyrights do expire and become part of the public domain after certain factors and time periods are met. Examples of copyright violations may include, but are not limited to: work copied freely from other copyrighted material, such as a celebrity's photo; or work derived from an existing photo or piece of art. If an artwork is derived from an existing photo or piece of art, one must obtain copyright permission, or it must be in the public domain, or it must be substantially altered so that it is a work of its own. Additional information concerning copyright protection may be found in the Copyright Act (title 17 of the United States Code); circulars including but not limited to *Circular 1, Copyright Basics* and *Circular 15a, Duration of Copyright*; or on the website of the U.S. Copyright Office at: [www.copyright.gov](http://www.copyright.gov).

As stated in the RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS: *Each entry must be original in concept, design, and execution and may not violate U.S. copyright laws. Any entry that has been copied from an existing photo or image (including a painting, graphic, or advertisement) that was*

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*created by someone other than the student is a violation of the competition rules and will not be accepted.*

The student submission and release form contains the following section:

*ORIGINALITY CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the art entry described above is an original work of authorship by the undersigned student and that it is not copied from, nor does it include, any other person's copyrighted work. Each student and art teacher must sign this release form.*