

Paint with Words.

文字で描け。

第12回
高校生
アート
ライター
大賞

*The 12th
Art Writer Award
for High School
Students*



The Art Writer Award for High School Students is an essay contest on art. It allows students to develop the ability to convey their ideas and think about art in their own words.

The 12th Art Writer Award spans two years: English essays in 2026, Japanese essays in 2027.

Essays in English Category

Write your thoughts on art in English in no more than 1,000 words.

Topic Themes Japanese Art / Creative Experience / Art and Life 2026

Application deadline Wednesday, September 23, 2026

How to Apply Submit your essay through the official website. <https://www.geijutsu.tsukuba.ac.jp/~awa/>



The 12th Art Writer Award for High School Students **English Essay Category**

Write your thoughts on art in English in no more than 1,000 words.

Topic Themes

You may write an essay that spans more than one topic.

Japanese Art

Write about Japanese art.

Creative Experience

Write about your experience of creating art work.

Art and Life 2026

Write about art and life in contemporary worldwide situations.

Application deadline: Wednesday, September 23, 2026

Announcement of Results: March, 2027 (online)

Awards

(Number of awards may change according to the volume of submissions.)

Grand Prize – 1 to 3 entries / Award for Excellence – 5 to 10 entries / Winning Entries – 10 to 20 entries

Rules

Applicants must be high school students or students attending a public institution equivalent to an upper secondary school (in Japan, mostly ages ranging from 15 to 18 years old) at the time of the application.

The essay must be written by the individual within 1000 words in English.

Please give each essay a title.

You may think and write logically about the topic like a short thesis.

You may talk about your personal feelings as you might when reminiscing.

You may also focus on reporting a topic as would a journalist.

Although “Art” will be assumed to describe visual arts focused on art and design, the essay writer is free to define art according to his or her own view.

Organizations

Hosted by the School of Art and Design, University of Tsukuba

Endorsed by InSEA (International Society for Education Through Art)

Cooperated by Turner Color Inc.

Directed by the Art Environment Support in the University of Tsukuba

Contact

Selection Committee of the Art Writer Award for High School Students

School of Art and Design, University of Tsukuba

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Procedures for Applying

[0] Visit the Art Writer Award for High School Students website

Learn about the award, read past winning essays, and think about what you would like to write about.
<https://www.geijutsu.tsukuba.ac.jp/~awa/>

[1] Write your original essay

Find a theme, research it, record it, and think about it.

Write your thoughts on art in English in no more than 1,000 words.

Please review what you have written and seek advice from friends and teachers to improve it.

We recommend completing your essay using the Worksheet downloadable from the “Application Guide” page before pasting it into the application form.

[2] Start Your Submission

Once you have completed your essay, open the “**Application Guide**” page on our website.

Read the instructions carefully and click “**Open the Application Form**” on the page.

[3] Fill in the applicant information

You can save your answers anytime by clicking the “**Save**” button at the bottom right of the page.

[4] Fill in the title and main text of your essay.

Complete your essay using the Worksheet and paste it into the application form.

Subheadings should be placed in [] to distinguish them from sentences.

Notes on Quotes

If you quote the thoughts or words of another person, use double quotation marks around the text (“ ”) and clarify within the body of the essay who the author is.

Example (Author’s surname publication year, quoted pages).

McClellan stated, “Art museums have never been more popular” (McClellan 2008, 1).

[5] Upload image files you want to include in your essay.

Up to 5 images can be uploaded.

Give the image a file name from Figure 1 through Figure 5.

Write a caption for the uploaded Figures.

The caption includes the title of the figure, its descriptions and its source.

Example 1: Caption for other artist’s artwork taken from a website.

(Artist’s name, *Title of the Work*, size, materials and techniques, year of creation. Name of the website, URL)

Figure 1. Katsushika Hokusai, *Under the Wave off Kanagawa from the series Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji*, 25.7 x 37.9 cm, Woodblock print; ink and color on paper, ca. 1830–32.

Metropolitan Museum of Art, <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/45434>

Example 2: Caption for other artist’s artwork taken from a book.

(Artist’s name, *Title of the Work*, size, materials and techniques, year of creation. Book author’s surname, first name. Publication year. *Book Title*, publisher, page numbers.)

Figure 2. Yayoi Kusama, *Narcissus Garden*, Stainless steel spheres, an installation in the Valley Gallery in Naoshima, 1966/2022. Ando, Tadao. 2022. *TADAO ANDO 5 Dialogues*, TOTO Publishing, 369.

Example 3: Caption for your own artwork

(Artist's name, *Title of the Work*, size, materials and techniques, year of creation. The photographer's name, etc.)

Figure 3. Alex Ashton, *Untitled*, 45cm x 35 cm, watercolor on paper, 2026. Photo by the author.

[6] List of references:

Please list the sources of any quoted or referenced texts (books, websites, etc.).

Example 1: From a book

(Author's surname, first name. Publication year. *Book Title*. Publisher, page numbers.)

McClellan, Andrew. 2008. *The Art Museum from Bullée to Bilbao*. University of California Press, 25.

Example 2: From a journal article

(Author's surname, first name. Publication year. "Article Title." *Journal Title*, volume number: page numbers.)

Ashton, Alex. 2016. "Drawing on Philosophy – An Investigation of Theory in Praxis." *International Journal of Education Through Art*, 12: 271-272.

Example 3: From a website

(Author's name. "Article Title." Name of the website, URL)

School of Art and Design. "History of the School of Art and Design"

Art & Design University of Tsukuba, <https://www.geijutsu.tsukuba.ac.jp>.

[7] Questions

Please answer the questions to improve our contest.

[8] Submission

After entering all the required information, click the "**Save**" button. Review your entries for accuracy, and then click the "**Submit**" button.

All entered data will be displayed on the confirmation page. You can print or save the information for your records.

You will receive a confirmation email once your submission is complete.

This email serves as official confirmation of your participation in the contest.

Personal Information

Information submitted through the online application form is encrypted and securely protected.

Personal information provided by applicants will be strictly managed and used only for the operation of this contest and for related research purposes.

Copyright

Copyright of submitted works remains with the applicants.

However, applicants grant the organizer, the School of Art and Design, University of Tsukuba, a non-exclusive, royalty-free license to use the submitted works for purposes related to the promotion, documentation, and publication of this contest (including reproduction, public dissemination, and publication).

In addition, when submitted works are made public, images such as photographs may be omitted due to copyright and related considerations.