

**BANNED
BOOKS
FOR ALL**

HOW TO ENTER OUR

NATIONAL TEEN ART CONTEST

Your Mission: Using the medium of your choice, show or represent what the **power of reading** or the **freedom to read** mean to you through visual art.

Get Inspired

- Visit NYPL's online exhibition *Banned: Censorship and the Freedom to Read*, which showcases more than 70 items from our collections that explore the history of censorship: nypl.org/censorship
- Check out the American Library Association's Freedom to Read Statement. This landmark declaration of principles was written in the 1950s but is still relevant today: uniteagainstbookbans.org/freedomtoread
- Read essays from teens across the country about why the freedom to read is important to them: nypl.org/teenvoices
- Join NYPL's Teen Banned Book Club to read graphic novels for young adults that have been banned or challenged. Our current book club selection is *Flamer* by Mike Curato, who has said that "censorship is fought with expression": nypl.org/bannedbookclub

Suggested Activities

Please also feel free to interpret the prompt however you like!

- **Make a protest poster:** Using a digital design tool or a printmaking technique of your choice, create a poster that you could take to a rally to protect the freedom to read.
- **Illustrate a reading memory:** Paint, draw, or illustrate a favorite reading memory. This could be a literal representation or one with abstract or imagined elements.
- **Create comic art:** Our Teen Banned Book Club features graphic novels that have been banned across the country. Create your own short comic depicting someone standing up to book bans in their community or discovering the power of reading.

What You Can Win

- **\$500 grand prize!**
The winner will also have the opportunity to have their winning entry exhibited at one of NYPL's midtown locations.
- **20 prizes at \$250.**
- All winners will have their work published in NYPL's *Teen Voices* magazine.



New York
Public
Library



ALA American
Library
Association

#FreedomToRead

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION

Document Your Art

Visual art has always been a powerful tool for calling attention to important issues, whether through fine art, posters, photography, narrative art (e.g. comics and graphic novels), or many other media. We encourage you to submit for the contest any 2D or 3D art style including painting, illustration, mixed media, photography, digital art, comic art, or sculpture. **Your work must be submitted as a digital image**, meaning it must be photographed or scanned if it did not originate as a digital piece. Follow these tips to capture your work.

- Take a photo of your work in natural light and against a neutral background.
- Your camera should be parallel to the work of art when you are taking the photo.
- Take several photos so that you can choose the best one!
- You can use a photo editor to crop the photo, but please do not add a filter.
- If you are photographing 3D art, you are allowed to submit up to four images—so take photos from a few different angles.

Write an Artist Statement

An artist statement must be submitted alongside your piece of art. This statement is a chance to explain your piece and the inspiration behind it in your own words. To get started, try one of the following activities:

- Start a timer for 10 minutes and then free-write anything that comes to mind about your piece.
- Create a list of words or phrases that you associate with your piece of art.
- Ask a friend or family member to interview you. How did you create this piece of art? Why did you create it? Were you inspired by anyone or anything while creating?



Submit Online!

Once you have your digital file and artist statement ready to go, you're ready to make your application! This is done through our online portal. Learn more: nypl.org/teencontest

Deadline to apply: Friday, December 6 | 11:59 PM

More Ways to Get Involved!

In response to the rise in book bans and challenges across the U.S., The New York Public Library (NYPL) and the American Library Association (ALA) are partnering to protect the freedom to read in our communities. Discover everything NYPL offers: nypl.org/freedomtoread

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Enter between 12:00 AM (EST) on 9/23/24 and 11:59 PM (EST) on 12/6/24. Open to US residents, 13 to 18 years of age at the time of entry. Void where prohibited or restricted by law. See Official Rules: nypl.org/teencontest

