

The Young Investigators Writing Competition

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. ENTRY IN THE YOUNG INVESTIGATORS WRITING COMPETITION CONSTITUTES YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF THESE OFFICIAL RULES.

The Young Investigators Writing Competition is designed to encourage eligible high school rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors in Long Island, NY and their parents/guardians on their behalf to leverage their creativity and ingenuity to create a submission within one (1) contest prompt. Our panel of judges will decide on awardees for winning entries, and prizes will be awarded in accordance with these Official Rules without contest.

- 1. BINDING AGREEMENT:** In order to enter the Contest, you must agree to the Rules. Therefore, please read these Rules prior to entry to ensure you understand and agree. These Rules form a binding legal agreement between you and The Young Investigators Writing Competition. By participating, you agree to be fully unconditionally bound by these Rules, and you represent and warrant that you meet the eligibility requirements. In addition, you **agree to accept the decisions** of The Young Investigators Writing Competition as final and binding. The Young Investigators Writing Competition is subject to all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Void where prohibited.
- 2. ELIGIBILITY:** In order to enter the Contest, Entrants must be enrolled in a High School or the educational equivalent in Nassau County or Suffolk County, NY. Entrants who are minors must have the consent of a parent or legal guardian to be eligible to receive prizes.
- 3. CONTEST PERIOD:** The Contest begins on May 1, 2021 in the United States and ends on July 15, 2021. All dates are subject to change at the sole discretion of the Young Investigators Writing Competition.
- 4. HOW TO ENTER:** To enter, please visit younginvestigatorswc.com and follow the rules to submit your materials. The entry must fulfill all requirements, as specified, to be eligible to win a prize. Entries that are incomplete or do not adhere to the rules or specifications may be disqualified at the sole discretion of the Young Investigators Writing Competition. Students can apply to one (1) of the four (4) categories, but subsequent entries will be disqualified. Furthermore, any submission not meeting these criteria may be disqualified without notice.

5. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

- a. Submissions must not be derogatory, offensive, threatening, defamatory, disparaging, libellous or contain any content that is inappropriate, indecent, sexual, profane, tortuous, slanderous, discriminatory information in any way, or that promotes hatred or harm against any group or person, or otherwise does not comply with theme and spirit of the Young Investigators Writing Competition.
 - b. Submissions must not contain content, material or any element that is unlawful, or otherwise in violation of or contrary to all applicable federal, state, or local laws and regulation including the laws or regulations in any state where the submission was created.
 - c. Submissions must not contain any content, material or element that displays any third party advertising, slogan, logo, trademark, representation of characters indicating a sponsorship or endorsement by a third party, commercial entity or that is not within the spirit of the competition, as determined by the Young Investigators Writing Competition, in its sole discretion.
 - d. By entering this competition, You represent and warrant that your entry is an original work of authorship, and does not violate any third party's proprietary or intellectual property rights. If your entry infringes upon the intellectual property right of another, You will be disqualified at the sole discretion of the Young Investigators Writing Competition. If the content of your entry is claimed to constitute infringement of any proprietary or intellectual proprietary rights of any third party, You shall, at your sole expense, defend or settle against such claims. You shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Young Investigators Writing Competition and against any suit, proceeding, claims, liability, loss, damage, costs or expense, which the Young Investigators Writing Competition may incur, suffer, or be required to pay arising out of such infringement or suspected infringement of any third party's right.
6. **JUDGING:** Each submission will be evaluated **blindly**; judges will not be aware of the authorship of any of the pieces. The pieces will be evaluated on the following criteria:
1. Answering the prompt: The writer responds to the prompt, providing insightful discussion on the issue.

2. Critical thinking: The writing conveys an understanding of the topic beyond basic knowledge of the prompt. Issues are objectively presented and evaluated to form sound judgements and solutions.
 3. Evidence-based reasoning: Examples and supporting evidence from reliable sources should be provided for all claims made. Ideas should be developed by the applicant and backed by sources.
 4. Language geared towards the public: Writing is clear, concise, and understandable at the high school educated level.
 5. Original writing: The submission is inventive and completely original. Any references to existing works are cited in the SBYIR citation style as outlined on younginvestigatorswc.com/rules
 6. Engaging work: The submission is compelling and captures readers' attention. Readers should be interested as they continue through the piece.
7. **CATEGORIES:** Entries will be grouped and judged by track and by their age groups (Entering Grade 10, 11, or 12). Prompts are as follows:
- a. Biology: Should we use synthetic biology in the development of vaccines and future medical research?
 - b. Environmental Science: How do we balance plastic use with our need to preserve the environment during a global crisis?
 - c. Psychology: Should we integrate any aspects of virtual learning with the classroom setting after the pandemic, and to what extent?
 - d. Space Research: Should we further pursue space research and exploration in today's world?
8. **WINNERS:** After reviewing all of the submissions for each category, the judging panel will rank submissions and assign awards in the following way:
- a. The top 50% of entries in each track for each grade level will receive an Honorable Mention certificate. This certificate will be emailed to them on the email that they registered with.
 - b. The top 10% of entries in each track and grade will receive a Quarterfinalist certificate. This certificate will be emailed to them on the email that they registered with. Quarterfinalists will also receive recognition on our website.

- c. The Semifinalists within each track and grade will be selected. Their work will be published on the Stony Brook Young Investigators Review website.
 - d. Among the semifinalists, the top (2) awardees from each grade will be chosen as finalists to be published in our Fall 2020 Edition of the *Stony Brook Young Investigators Review*.
- 9. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY:** As between The Young Investigators Writing Competition and the Entrant, the Entrant retains ownership of all intellectual and industrial property rights (including moral rights) in and to the submission. As a condition of entry, Entrant grants The Young Investigators Writing Competition and its affiliates and sponsors a perpetual, irrevocable, worldwide, transferable, royalty-free, and non-exclusive license to use, reproduce, adapt, modify, publish, distribute, publicly perform, create a derivative work from, and publicly display the submission for any purpose, including display on the website the Young Investigators Writing Competition or its sponsors, without compensation to Entrant. Your work may be also subject to various plagiarism-tracking software to confirm original authorship.
- 10. PRIVACY:** Entrants agree and acknowledge that personal data submitted with an entry, including name, mailing address, phone number, and email address may be collected, processed, stored and otherwise used by the Young Investigators Writing Competition and its affiliates for the purposes of conducting and administering the competition.
- 11. WINNERS LIST:** The full list of quarterfinalists, semifinalists, and finalists will be posted on the Stony Brook Young Investigators Review website (sbyireview.com) and on the official competition website (younginvestigatorswc.com) on September 15, 2021. You may also request a list of winners on or after September 15, 2021, by emailing younginvestigators@stonybrook.edu. All dates are subject to change at the sole discretion of the Young Investigators Writing Competition.