



Position Statement on Student Art Contests and Competitions

[Adopted March 2016; Consolidation and Update of these two statements:

- **NAEA Policy Statement on Involvement in Art Contests and Competitions for Students at the Secondary Level Adopted April 1998**
- **NAEA Policy on Contests And Competitions Adopted March 2001]**

NAEA believes that participation in educationally relevant and instructionally valuable competitions and contests at all levels of instruction can serve as a positive experience. The nature and purpose of any competition should be compatible with a high quality visual arts education program. Competitions, including juried exhibitions, should meet and support the needs, interests, and concerns of the visual art students by promoting deeper understanding of art, developing understanding of the presenting process, and allowing for diverse personal expression.

NAEA extends the following guidelines in regard to competitions:

- Art educators advise students and parents/guardians whether submission to a particular competition is appropriate for the student based on the level of the student's work and maturity and the structure of the competition.
- Art educators assist the students in understanding the competition's rules for entry; specific criteria upon which the art will be judged; and that the judgement is on the art submitted and not on the artist as a person.
- Art educators should not act as brokers of student art and should maintain the privacy of students unless prior parental permission has been obtained for the release, publication, and reproduction of student information and art.
- Competitions should fit within the visual arts education curriculum, meet national, state or local art standards, and be developmentally appropriate.
- Competitions should require parental permission for entry; refuse art that carries doubt as to its authenticity/originality and/or has copyright infringement issues; and clearly state what rights to the art students are relinquishing and what compensation is involved.
- Sponsors should support visual arts education and work with art educators to develop competitions that do not require endorsement of particular products or businesses and refrain from exploiting students and their art.

Participation in competitions should be optional for students. Visual art educators should consider identifying ways for the school and/or competition sponsors to recognize all students whose work is submitted for public competitions outside of the school.

Resource:

NAEA Position Statement on the Ethical use of Copyrighted Imagery and Primary Sources
[Adopted April 2014]