

This is an edited excerpt from ArtandWriting.org (Scholastic). By entering work in our show, you are verifying that the work you are entering is original. If students are bringing in ideas for work, it is your responsibility to know where those ideas are coming from.

What is Copyright & Plagiarism?

Copyright is a form of legal protection prohibiting others from copying one's creative work without permission. A copyright is a property right. Copyright law grants the creator of an original work the exclusive rights for its use and distribution.

Plagiarism is an ethical violation resulting from failure to cite sources and engaging in the act of passing someone else's work or ideas off as one's own. This applies even if you have only copied a part, rather than the whole, of another's work.

How do I know if my work is original?

An original work is one that is new and different from what others have created. This means that you are the author of the work, and the work is not copied from someone else's original work.

Even if there is no exact or literal copying, but the average person may notice substantial similarities between the submitted work and the source material, it is possible that the work is not considered original and should not be submitted to the AHS&E. For example, a pencil drawing that directly copies a celebrity portrait that was taken by another artist ... is not original work.

Can I work from a photograph?

It should be a photograph that the student has taken or one from the student's family: not from the internet, Pinterest, or any social media. If it has been published, it should not be used.

Can I use someone else's work if I make changes to it?

- Changing the media—for example, creating a painting based on a photo that was taken by someone else ... does NOT make the work transformative.
- Cropping or resizing an image does NOT make the work transformative.
- Changing the color scheme does NOT make the work transformative.

What if I cite my sources? Can I use another person's work if I give them credit?

Don't use another artist's work. What is important is that your finished work is something new and different from your source idea. You can be inspired by the work of others, but don't copy it!

Consequences of Copyright & Plagiarism Violations

If we believe that a submission violates the participation terms, the student submission will be disqualified.

Can I use Artificial Intelligence to generate ideas for my art?

Works created by, or copied from Artificial Intelligence sources are ineligible.

What if I find a work that was submitted that is not original?

If you suspect that a work was copied from another source or was plagiarized, please let us know by emailing us BRaffalovich.ahsae@gmail.com. We will investigate to determine if the work violates our participation terms. Because of student privacy concerns, we will not follow-up with you to report on the outcome of our investigation.

Tips: Preventing Copyright & Plagiarism Violations

- Educators and students are responsible for educating themselves on copyright and plagiarism issues. This page is only a guide. There is no formula for creating an original work.
- If you have any doubt about whether a submission is original, choose not to submit that work.
- Do not submit fan art.
- Changing the medium of an original work is not considered transformative. For example, a painting or drawing of a photograph taken from the Internet or a magazine is not considered original and should not be submitted to the Atlanta High School Art Exhibition.
- Educators: if a classroom assignment involves any copying of a another artist work, even if it's just for the purpose of practicing and learning, please direct students not to submit these works.