

Strategies **for** Youth

YOUTH VOICES CONTEST

ENTRIES MUST BE
RECEIVED BY
**Dec. 18th
2018**

**Tell us how you see interactions
between police and youth**

- You must be 12-18 years old
- Submissions can be: an essay, a drawing, a painting, a cartoon, an animated cartoon, a photograph, a sculpture or a collage
- See contest details on the back



Youth Voices Contest Guidelines

Strategies for Youth invites young people to express their views on police and youth interactions, as they are today and as they could be ideally, in a national writing and art competition with cash prizes. We want youths' voices to be heard and seen through this contest. SFY's Youth Voice contest will showcase youth writing and artwork from communities nationwide.

Writing

WHAT TO SUBMIT

An essay or story between 500-2000 words in length.
All writing must be submitted as a pdf or a Word document.

TOPICS FOR WRITING PIECES (CHOOSE ONE)

- Police/youth interactions are often strained in the U.S.—what advice would you give to law enforcement to reduce the stress between the two sides?
- Write a letter to a police officer explaining what would you like the officer to know about you.
- Do you want to be a police officer when you are older? Describe your motivations and reasoning for why you wish to start a career in policing.
- Write a story about a youth at school to whom police have been called to deal with. Describe what would be the perfect police response to this situation.
- What goes through your head when you interact with a police officer? What are your emotions and thoughts? How does this affect your actions?

Guidelines

- Each contestant may only submit one entry.
- SFY will begin accepting submissions: Oct. 15th 2018.
- SFY will stop accepting submissions: Dec. 15th, 2018.

Prizes

- Entries will be judged by age group and prizes will be awarded as follow:
Group 1: Age 12-14 — \$1,000 winning entry.
Group 2: Age 15-18 — \$1,500 winning entry.
- Contest winners will be announced at a press conference in Cambridge MA, and promoted in national media.

Artwork

WHAT TO SUBMIT

- A photograph or scan of your original artwork in one of these categories:
A drawing, a painting, a cartoon (single panel, panel cartoon strip, or animated), a photograph or collage of photographs, a sculpture.
- Inspiration from sources is accepted, but all entries must be original.
- All artwork submitted must contain a small writing sample (a few sentences will do) about what the artwork is portraying and the inspiration behind it.

THEMES FOR ARTWORK

- A visual metaphor to depict youth and police.
- An image representing the status quo, the ideal, the need for change, or all three.
- A satirical representation.
- An image depicting the influence that youth have to influence change.

Eligibility

- Contestants must be between 12- 18 years old.
- Participants must agree to grant copyright permission to Strategies for Youth. All entries will become property of Strategies for Youth and may be used on SFY products or displayed on the SFY website.

Where to Send Your Entries

- Written entries and photos or scans of artwork should be emailed to: **contest@strategiesforyouth.org**
- Art submissions may also be mailed to Strategies for Youth, Contest, PO Box 390174, Cambridge, MA 02139

Strategies for Youth

CONNECTING COPS & KIDS

P.O. Box 390174 • Cambridge, MA 02139 • 617.714.3789 • www.strategiesforyouth.org

SFY is a national organization dedicated to improving police/youth interactions. SFY advocates and promotes the training of law enforcement officers in using developmentally appropriate, trauma-informed, racially equitable approaches to policing youth. In addition to promoting training for police, we partner with communities to encourage strong police/youth relationships and offer programming for youth through our Juvenile Justice Jeopardy game.