



2025 Atlanta Citizen Review Board Art, Essay, Verbal Expression Contest Rules for All Categories

The Atlanta Citizen Review Board (ACRB) is committed to promoting positive interaction between citizens and police officers. The purpose of the ACRB Art, Essay, Verbal Expression Contest is to encourage discussion and understanding between students/citizens and law enforcement through creative expression. It is an opportunity to freely express the relationship with artwork, written, and spoken word based on personal opinions, experiences, talents, skills, and abilities.

There are two parts to this contest, the **PRIMARY** category (*Atlanta Schools (public & private-Only)*) and the **SPECIAL OPEN ENTRY (SOE)** category. The SOE category encourages and includes people of all ages living within the Atlanta city limits and surrounding counties (see information on this page that specifically applies to this category).

Contest Theme

"My Dream for a Just World: One City, One Team...Citizens & Police, Working Together..."

Contest Deadlines

The contest will officially kick-off on **August 17, 2024**. All artists/essayists submitting an entry must deliver finished work at Atlanta City Hall to the ACRB office, suite #1225, no later than **January 13, 2025, by 5:00 p.m.** Mail entries must be received or postmarked on or before midnight **January 13, 2025**. Email entries must be received by **January 13, 2025**.

How to Submit Entries	
<p>A. Drop off: Atlanta Citizen Review Board Atlanta City Hall 55 Trinity Avenue, Suite 1225 Atlanta, Georgia 30303 (drop off by 5:00 p.m.)</p> <p>We advise all artworks to be dropped off at the ACRB office due to possible damage when shipping.</p> <p>B. Mail: Atlanta Citizen Review Board Atlanta City Hall 55 Trinity Avenue, Suite 1225 Atlanta, Georgia 30303 (postmarked by January 13, 2025, 12:00 a.m. (midnight)).</p>	<p>C. Email: Verbal Expression (<i>Poetry and Rap</i>) entries must be emailed to acrb@atlantaga.gov. Essay entries can also be emailed.</p> <p>IMPORTANT: All entries submitted for 2025 Art, Essay, Verbal Expression contest become the sole property of the ACRB. The ACRB is not obligated to return any entries submitted and related to this contest.</p> <p>Entry forms may be picked up from the ACRB office. You may call the ACRB office at 404-865-8622 to request an entry form to be emailed or mailed to you. You may also visit www.acrbgov.org to download the form.</p>

Contest Eligibility

All elementary school, middle school, high school, and college students living within the Atlanta city limits are eligible to enter the primary contest. Everyone living within Atlanta city limits and surrounding cities, and counties are eligible to enter the Special Open Entry contest (see *Special Open Entry (SOE) list of eligible areas*). City of Atlanta residents can participate in the primary contest or the SOE but cannot participate in both.

GENERAL RULES for ALL Entries in 2025 Art, Essay, Verbal Expression Contest:

- One entry per student. One entry per citizen. One category per person.
- All entries must reflect the contest theme.
- No profanity, obscenity, pornography, vulgarity, misogyny.
- Plagiarism is grounds for disqualification unless material can be shown to be in the public domain. This includes use of Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- All verbal expression entries must be submitted with a typed transcript and the participant's name, if not the entry will be disqualified.
- CAUTION: Entry form MUST accompany ALL entries. Entries submitted without a contest entry form will be disqualified.**
- Any deviation from submission requirements or the general rules results in immediate disqualification, no exceptions.

PRIMARY CONTEST RULES

Elementary School Contest Rules (ART ONLY):

Students in Elementary Schools within the Atlanta city limits (**Grades 1 to 5**)
One entry per student. **All entries must reflect the contest theme and have an entry form.**
Artwork must be no smaller than 8" x 11" and no larger than 18 x 24". Artwork may be vertical or horizontal orientation. Students may use any colorful medium that includes markers, paint, pastels, colored pencils, or crayon. Final piece of artwork must be appropriate for mounting. **Please do not frame artwork.** We advise that all artworks be dropped off at the ACRB office no later than **January 13, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.** All entries must be submitted with an ACRB Art Contest Entry Form and meet technical requirements.

Middle School Contest Rules:

Students in Middle Schools in the COA Only (**Grades 6 to 8**). One entry per student. **All entries must reflect the contest theme.**

ART

Artwork must be no smaller than 8" x 11" and no larger than 18 x 24". Artwork may be vertical or horizontal orientation. Students may use any medium that includes markers, paint, pastels, colored pencils, charcoal, or crayon. Final piece of artwork must be appropriate for mounting. All entries must be submitted with an ACRB Art Contest Entry Form and meet technical requirements. Entries must be dropped off to the ACRB office no later than Monday, January 13, 2025, by 5:00 p.m.

ESSAY

Essays are written and must be between 250-500 words. Essays over 500 words will be disqualified. Essays must be typed in Times New Roman with a font size of 12. Entries must be postmarked or emailed no later than Monday, January 13, 2025, by 12:00 a.m. (midnight).

Verbal Expression

Verbal expression is vocal poetry and rap. Entries must be between 45 seconds and 90 seconds in length. No more than 15 seconds of sampling (*work other than your own*) is allowed. Sampling would include, but not be limited to, Bible verses, song lyrics, theatrical lines, etc. that are in the public domain. A finished package must include an entry form, audio/video file, and a typed transcript. The transcript must include a contestant's name, phone number, email, and source of sample used, this does not take the place of the entry form. **YOU MUST COMPLETE AND SUBMIT BOTH!** Acceptable submission formats include, but are not limited to, .mp3, .wav, .mp4, and .mov files. Submissions must be emailed no later than Monday, January 13, 2025, by 12:00 a.m. (midnight).

High School Contest Rules:

Students in High Schools within the Atlanta city limits only (**Grades 9 to 12**). One entry per student. **All entries must reflect the contest theme and must have an entry form.**

ART

Artwork must be no smaller than 8" x 11", no larger than 18 x 24". Artwork may be vertical or horizontal orientation. Students may use any colorful medium that includes markers, paint, pastels, colored pencils, or crayon. Final piece of artwork must be appropriate for mounting. All entries must be submitted with an ACRB Art Contest Entry Form and meet technical requirements. Entries must be dropped off to the ACRB office no later than Monday, January 13, 2025, by 5:00 p.m.

ESSAY

Essays are written and must be between 500-750 words. Essays over 750 words will be disqualified. Essays must be typed in Times New Roman with a font size of 12. Entries must be postmarked or emailed no later than Monday, January 13, 2025, by 12:00 a.m. (midnight).

Verbal Expression

Verbal expression is vocal poetry and rap. Entries must be between 45 seconds and 90 seconds in length. No more than 15 seconds of sampling (*work other than your own*) is allowed. Sampling would include, but not be limited to Bible verses, song lyrics, theatrical lines, etc. that are in the public domain. A finished package must include an entry form, audio/video file, and a typed transcript. The transcript must include a contestant's name, phone number, email, and source of sample used, this does not take the place of the entry form. **YOU MUST COMPLETE AND SUBMIT BOTH!** Acceptable submission formats include, but are not limited to, .mp3, .wav, .mp4, and .mov files. Submissions must be emailed no later than January 13, 2025, by 12:00 a.m. (midnight).

College Contest Rules

Students attending college within the Atlanta city limits. One entry per student. **All entries must reflect the contest theme and must have an entry form.**

ESSAY

Essays are written and must be between 750-1000 words. Essays over 1000 words will be disqualified. Essays must be typed in Times New Roman with a font size of 12. Entries must be postmarked or emailed no later than Monday, January 13, 2025, by 12:00 a.m. (midnight).

Verbal Expression

Verbal expression is vocal poetry and rap. Entries must be between 45 seconds and 90 seconds in length. No more than 15 seconds of sampling (*work other than your own*) is allowed. Sampling would include, but may not be limited to, Bible verses, song lyrics, theatrical lines, etc. that are in the public domain. A finished package must include an entry form, audio/video file, and a typed transcript. The transcript must include a contestant's name, phone number, email, and source of sample used, this does not take the place of the entry form. **YOU MUST COMPLETE AND SUBMIT BOTH!** Acceptable submission formats include, but are not limited to, .mp3, .wav, .mp4, and .mov files. Submissions must be emailed no later than January 13, 2025, by 12:00 a.m. (midnight).



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SPECIAL OPEN ENTRY (SOE) Contest Rules

Anyone living within Atlanta city limits and surrounding counties is eligible. Eligible counties are Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Dekalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, and Rockdale. There is NO grade or age requirement for this special category. One entry per person. **All entries must reflect the contest theme and must have an entry form.**

ART

Artwork must be no smaller than 8" x 11", no larger than 18 x 24". Artwork may be vertical or horizontal orientation. Students may use any colorful medium that includes markers, paint, pastels, colored pencils, or crayon. Final piece of artwork must be appropriate for mounting. All entries must be submitted with an ACRB Art Contest Entry Form and meet technical requirements. Entries must be dropped off to the ACRB office no later than Monday, January 13, 2025, by 5:00 p.m.

ESSAY

Essays are written and must be between 750-1000 words. Essays over 1000 words will be disqualified. Essays must be typed in Times New Roman with a font size of 12. Entries must be postmarked or emailed no later than January 13, 2025, by 12:00 a.m. (midnight).

VERBAL EXPRESSION

Verbal expression is vocal poetry and rap. Entries must be between 45 seconds and 90 seconds in length. No more than 15 seconds of sampling (work other than your own) is allowed. Sampling would include, but may not be limited to, Bible verses, song lyrics, theatrical lines, etc. that are in the public domain. A finished package must include an entry form, audio/video file, and a typed transcript. The transcript must include a contestant's name, phone number, email and source of sample used, this does not take the place of the entry form. **YOU MUST COMPLETE AND SUBMIT BOTH!** Acceptable submission formats include, but are not limited to, .mp3, .wav, .mp4, and .mov files. Submissions must be emailed no later than January 13, 2025, by 12:00 a.m. (midnight).

JUDGING ENTRIES

Criteria for All Artwork

Entries will be judged according to the requirements of specified categories and primarily for following the rules and theme of the contest. Consideration will also be given for the following:

1. Originality – new and different expression
2. Artistic composition – putting the art together
3. Interpretation of theme – expression of what the theme means
4. Creative techniques – use of the art tools
5. Overall art appearance

Criteria for All Essays

Entries will be judged according to the requirements of specified categories and primarily for following the rules and theme of the contest. Consideration will also be given for the following:

1. Originality (*a different and creative opinion*)
2. Composition (*a command of the language*)
3. Interpretation of theme – a compelling view of what the theme means to the you.

Criteria for All VERBAL EXPRESSION

Entries will be judged according to requirements of specified categories and primarily for following the rules and theme of the contest. Consideration will also be given for the following:

1. Originality – new and different expression
2. Artistic composition
3. Interpretation of the theme – what the theme means to the contestant
4. Creative techniques – vocal presentation, imagery, body language, visualizations.
5. Overall presentation

Judges:

All entries will be scrutinized by ACRB staff to meet the criteria in each category as specified above. Entries not meeting criteria will be immediately disqualified. Qualifying entries will be decided by a panel of judges who will select the winning entries for each category. Anyone selected to judge cannot participate in the contest, nor have affiliation with any contestant.

Winner Notification

All winners will be announced **Monday, March 31, 2025**, and notified via electronic message and/or certified US Mail by **Monday, March 31, 2025**. A special Awards Ceremony & Reception for winners and families will be held followed by the acknowledgement and presentation of contest winners during an Atlanta City Council meeting (*date will be determined pending the release of the 2025 Atlanta City Council Meeting schedule*).

All winners must claim their prizes in person, no representatives allowed.

Prizes

A total of thirty (30) winners will be selected. In the event of a tie vote, a selected panel of judges will decide the winner.

Grades 1-5:

(ART Contest)

Grand Prize Winner – Prize Valued up to \$200.00

Second Place – Prize Valued up to \$150.00

Third Place – Prize Valued up to \$75.00

Grades 6-8:

(ART Contest)

Grand Prize Winner – Prize Valued up to \$400.00

Second Place – Prize Valued up to \$200.00

Third Place – Prize Valued up to \$100.00

(ESSAY Contest)

Grand Prize Winner – Prize Valued up to \$500.00

Second Place – Prize Valued up to \$300.00

Third Place – Prize Valued up to \$150.00

(VERBAL EXPRESSION Contest)

Grand Prize Winner – Prize Valued up to \$400.00

Second Place – Prize Valued up to \$200.00

Third Place – Prize Valued up to \$100.00

Grades 9-12:

(ESSAY Contest)

Grand Prize Winner – Prize Valued up to \$800.00

Second Place – Prize Valued up to \$600.00

Third Place – Prize Valued up to \$300.00

(VERBAL EXPRESSION Contest)

Grand Prize Winner – Prize Valued up to \$500.00

Second Place – Prize Valued up to \$300.00

Third Place – Prize Valued up to \$200.00

College Students:

(ESSAY Contest)

Grand Prize Winner – Prize Valued up to \$1000.00

Second Place – Prize Valued up to \$500.00

Third Place – Prize Valued up to \$300.00

(VERBAL EXPRESSION Contest)

Grand Prize Winner – Prize Valued up to \$700.00

Second Place – Prize Valued up to \$400.00

Third Place – Prize Valued up to \$200.00

SPECIAL OPEN ENTRY (SOE) Category Prizes:

SOE (ART Contest)

Grand Prize Winner – Prize Valued up to \$400.00

Second Place – Prize Valued up to \$200.00

SOE (ESSAY Contest)

Grand Prize Winner – Prize Valued up to \$500.00

Second Place – Prize Valued up to \$300.00

SOE (VERBAL EXPRESSION Contest)

Grand Prize Winner – Prize Valued up to \$400.00

Second Place – Prize Valued up to \$200.00

All 2025 qualified contestants, except contest winners, will receive an ACRB wristband and Certificate of Appreciation.

CAUTION: All automatic contest disqualifications

1. Not having a completed entry form attached to submission along with proper information.
2. Entering more than one (1) category.
3. Living outside of the Atlanta city limits and entering in the primary contest (*living within the Atlanta city limits*).
4. Exceeding the time bar of 90 seconds for the Poetry & Rap contest.
5. Exceeding maximum word count for essay category (*see word counts for each category*).
6. Not reaching minimum word count for essay category (*see word counts for each category*).
7. Submitting framed artwork and artwork smaller than 8" x 10" or larger than 18" x 24".
8. Use of plagiarism, profanity, obscenity, pornography, vulgarity, misogyny, and Artificial Intelligence (AI).
9. No entry form included with submission
10. Omission of typed transcripts
11. Missed deadline of Monday, January 13, 2025, for submissions.
12. Not sticking to contest theme of **"My Dream for a Just World: One City, One Team...Citizens & Police, Working Together..."**