



## *2025-2026 Georgia History Festival*

### Student Art Contests Summary and Guidelines

#### Georgia Day Statewide Student Art Contest (individual)

- Elementary, middle, and high school categories
- Submission window: December 1, 2026 – January 23, 2026

#### Georgia Day Classroom Contest (Classroom based)

- Elementary and middle categories
- Submission window: December 1, 2025 – February 5, 2026

#### *Georgia History Festival* theme: A Nation of Laws: Courts and the Foundation of Freedom

The 2025-2026 Georgia History Festival explores from a historical perspective the vital role of an independent judiciary in maintaining the separation of powers and the rule of law, while ensuring a just and orderly society where all people are equal before the law and no one is above it. We will explore the original design for the three branches of government in lawmaking as laid out by the Constitution, focusing on the specific role of the judicial branch at the local, state, and federal levels.

#### Georgia Day Art Contests theme: The Rule of Law in Georgia's History

Through the Georgia Day art contests, students have the opportunity to investigate the role that an independent judiciary has historically played at the local, state, and federal levels. Using a variety of artistic media, students will illustrate lawmakers, lawbreakers, judges, and interesting and important court cases throughout Georgia's history.

Students are encouraged to use their creativity to demonstrate their knowledge of the theme through art. Some ideas to consider:

- Highlight important attorneys, judges, or politicians that impacted the judiciary throughout the history of Georgia (ex. Governors; Georgia's signers of the Constitution; Leah Ward Sears; Griffin Bell; Civil Rights leaders who influenced policy changes; etc.).
- Highlight important court cases (ex. *Worcester v. Georgia*, *Heart of Atlanta Motel v. United States*, *Leo M. Frank v. The State of Georgia*, *The United States v. Schooner Wanderer and Cargo*, etc.).





- Highlight important people or events from or in Georgia who shaped the judiciary or challenged the public's perception of the law (ex. James Oglethorpe; Governor John M. Slayton; Primus King; Civil Rights leaders such as Martin Luther King, Jr., Lonnie King, Julian Bond, and John Lewis; Helen Mankin; Grace Towns Hamilton; Charlayne Hunter Gault; local participants in Civil Rights activities such as sit-ins and wade-ins; etc.).

For additional information, ideas, and inspiration, refer to the digital resources available at <https://georgiahistoryfestival.org/educators/>.

### Judging Criteria

Student art will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Integration of the *Georgia History Festival* theme
- Creativity of interpretation
- Visual impact

For the individual contest, a first, second, and third place winner will be selected in each of the elementary, middle, and high school categories. For the classroom contest, first, second, and third place winners will be selected in elementary and middle school categories. Art contest winners will be announced via social media on Georgia Day, February 12, 2026.

All winners will receive a Certificate of Appreciation for their artwork and will be recognized in GHS publications and on social media.

All first-place winners in the individual category will receive an art kit. The first-place winner of the classroom contest will receive a trophy.





### Statewide Student Art Contest (individual)

Students are invited to submit an original creation focused on an important or influential person, event, or laws and policy connected to the history of the judiciary in Georgia and the U.S. The art contest is open to any individual student attending public, private, parochial, online, or home school in Georgia in grades K-12.

#### Guidelines for Creation:

- Entry is free and limited to one submission per student.
- Art entries should be original, student-made work that does not infringe on copyrighted material.
- The Statewide Student Art Contest will accept online submissions representing:
  - Drawings
  - Paintings
  - Digital works
  - Fine art photography
  - Mixed media
  - Sculpture

#### Guidelines for Submission:

- Art must be submitted
  - as a high-resolution image or PDF document
    - Artwork images must be in .jpg or .png format.
  - with up to three images per entry
    - If multiple photos are submitted, consider choosing close-ups or different angles to show dimension and/or scale of the piece.
  - with an additional photo of the artist with their art
    - This image is considered separate from the image entries.
  - with an artist statement to include
    - A title for the piece
    - Why the student chose to focus on the particular subject.
- By submitting images to GHS, the submitter transfers the right to use or reproduce images of banners and other works of art, in part or in full, including images with people, in GHS publications, and on all GHS social media platforms.





#### Classroom Contest (class or club)

Classes are invited to create a bulletin board or classroom door telling the story of an important or influential element of the judiciary in Georgia. The contest is open to any public, private, parochial, or home school. One submission per school will be accepted.

#### Guidelines for Creation:

The created piece should:

- Represent student work, guided by teachers.
- Be contained to a standard-size classroom bulletin board or door; maximum size of 7 ft x 3 ft.
- Be an original design reflecting the theme, The Rule of Law in Georgia's History

#### Guidelines for Submission:

- Artwork must be submitted
  - With up to three (3) high-resolution images (at least 300 dpi)
  - With one (1) image to include the class/students who created the piece.
  - As horizontal (landscape) orientation in .jpg or .png format.
  - With a title and artist statement as to why the group chose the specific person, event, etc.
  - By submitting images to GHS, the submitter transfers the right to use or reproduce images of banners and other works of art, in part or in full, including images with people, in GHS publications, and on all GHS social media platforms.



The rubric for *both* the individual and classroom contests is as follows:

Criteria	Satisfactory (1 - 3)	Good (4 - 7)	Excellent (8-10)
<p>Interpretation of the theme.  <i>The final art piece reflects the GHF theme. Special consideration: Does the selected topic explore under-represented subjects?</i></p> <p>Max 10 pts</p>	<p>Selection of a well-known person(s) or topic in GA history, but does not show understanding of the subject role/significance in GA history.</p>	<p>Selection of a well-known person (s) or topic in GA history; shows understanding of that subject role/significance in GA history.</p>	<p>Selection of a lesser-known/unusual person(s) or topic in GA history; shows understanding of that subject role/significance in GA history.</p>
<p>Creativity of interpretation  <i>The medium and design carefully selected &amp; designed.</i></p> <p>Max 10 pts</p>	<p>The design shows little evidence of planning, and the medium is not effectively used.</p>	<p>The design shows evidence of planning; it is appropriate for the chosen medium and pleasing to the eye.</p>	<p>The design is effectively planned and is complete in its presented medium. It has the power to “wow” the viewer in a positive way.</p>
<p>Craftsmanship &amp; effort  <i>The neatness and care of the student is evident.</i></p> <p>Max 10 pts</p>	<p>There is limited effort in the completion of this artwork.</p>	<p>There is substantial effort made and the artwork shows good craftsmanship.</p>	<p>There is excellent craftsmanship &amp; effort evident in the creative process of the artwork.</p>
			Final Score Max of 30