

# The Guardian Foundation

## Emerging Voices Awards

### 19-25 category guidance

The Emerging Voices Awards is a political opinion writing competition celebrating new voices and fresh perspectives in the UK which, now more than ever, is essential to the future of quality, independent journalism.

The competition offers a range of prizes, provides a platform for new voices in journalism and gives young people the opportunity to gain experience and networks.

We invite those aged 16-25 from a state school background to submit a short political opinion piece on a subject of their choice. We particularly encourage entries from those with a lower socio-economic background, Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds, LGBTQ+ and people with a disability.

**The winner will have their article published in The Guardian and receive a £1,000 prize.**



# How to enter

## Writing your article

Your article should:

- be between 900 and 1000 words
- be a political opinion piece suitable for publication in the Guardian Opinion section
- be well researched
- be timely and topical for publication in April
- be written in your voice and style
- offer a fresh perspective and personal anecdote
- have a well constructed, clear argument

## Submission

- To enter a piece for consideration, you should fill out [this entry form in full](#) and submit it by 11:59pm on 2nd February 2025
- The link to the form can also be found on our website
- You will be able to upload your article to the submission form
- Your article should be in PDF format
- The article should not include your name or personal details as they will be judged anonymously. The PDF file name can include your name.

If you encounter any problems with the form, the submission process or have any access needs, please do not hesitate to email us [awards@theguardianfoundation.org](mailto:awards@theguardianfoundation.org)

## Judging

Articles will be shortlisted and judged by a panel made up of experienced Guardian and Observer journalists and contributors. If your article has been shortlisted, you will be notified by the 7th March 2025.

If you are shortlisted, you will be given feedback on your work and the option to re-submit an edited version of your piece ahead of final judgement. We will give you approximately one week to do this. We offer this to give you the best chance of winning and to give you valuable feedback on your writing.

## Prizes

The winner of the Emerging Voices Awards will:

- Receive £1,000
- Have the opportunity to attend 1 week of work experience at the Guardian
- Have their piece published on the Guardian
- Receive a trophy presented at our awards ceremony event

The runner up will:

- Receive £200
- Be awarded a Guardian Live voucher
- Receive a certificate presented at our awards ceremony event

All shortlisted entrants will receive feedback and a digital certificate.

# Further guidance

## **1. Find your own voice**

We are not looking for a piece written “in the style of” Hugo Young or anyone else, but for an authentic new voice, and a fresh perspective on a topic you feel passionate about. Choose a subject and argument that you feel isn't currently well represented and that you can communicate well to your readers and take them on a journey. We're keen to hear from people from different backgrounds, and about ideas, subjects and viewpoints you may not feel have been covered before.

## **2. Construct a good argument**

Your piece should present a clear argument that reflects your opinion on your chosen subject. Remember that you are trying to persuade your reader to come around to your view. Make this easy for them by including evidence, addressing other perspectives directly, presenting a conclusion and structuring your writing in a way that is easy-to-follow. Don't forget to proofread your work before you submit it.

## **3. Include a personal anecdote**

A strong opinion piece will weave some expertise in or experience of your subject by sharing a personal/professional anecdote. It's important for the reader to see and trust that you truly understand the topic by providing your own perspective on an issue.

## **4. Do your research**

Remember that while a strong argument is important, so too is a grasp of the facts. Writing a good opinion column involves just as much reporting as a news piece, if not more. Your task is to persuade others, so you need to make the strongest possible case for your opinion - strong enough to persuade your opponents. The best pieces consider the opposite position's best argument, then knock it down with an even better argument. That takes work.

## **5. Show your workings**

The winning piece will appear online. Links are an essential part of writing for the web. The internet is awash with rumours, gossip and inaccuracies, which makes credibility all the more important to our readers. Writing about a government report? Link to it. Quoting the prime minister? Link to the source. Referring to old news stories? Find the link. The more you can show the workings of your research, the better.

## **6. Be topical**

Your piece should also be timely, or ahead of time (bearing in mind that the winning article will be published in early-mid April). So choose a subject that is as broad as possible. It could be ongoing (for example, climate change, human rights, elections) or that hasn't happened yet, but will (eg an event that is happening later in the year or next year).

## **7. Don't feel limited**

Politics is the choices that individuals, governments, corporations and other groups make, and how those choices impact society or a group of people. This means that most topics can be looked at from a political angle, so don't feel limited in your subject matter. If you have any questions, feel free to email us.

# Terms and conditions

1. The Guardian Foundation's Emerging Voices Awards 19-25 category is open only to those aged between 19 and 25 inclusively. You must be resident in the UK. You must have previously attended a state-funded school to apply.
2. The Award is not open to employees or agencies of Guardian News & Media Limited ("GNM"), its group companies or their family members, or anyone else connected with the creation or administration of the Award.
3. The entry form should be filled out in full with articles uploaded to the form in PDF format. The deadline for all entries is 11.59pm on 2nd February 2025. Entries received after this deadline will not be processed.
4. No responsibility is taken for entries that are lost, delayed, misdirected or incomplete or cannot be delivered or entered for any technical or other reason. Proof of delivery of the entry is not proof of receipt.
5. The Guardian Foundation reserves the right to not process entries with illegible application forms or those that do not include the correct amount of entered material.
6. Entries must be the original work of the person responsible for the publication. Any evidence of plagiarism may result in the entrant being disqualified.
7. We will check all entries to ensure AI tools have not been used. Those who have will be disqualified. Basic grammar and spell check tools are permitted.
8. By submitting an entry, you confirm that you have the right to enter and have obtained all and any consents, permissions and authorisations that may be necessary (whether from your institution of higher education or otherwise) in order for you to enter.
9. We will not accept entries that have been published anywhere before or during the competition period.
10. Entrants may submit only one entry per year.
11. Entries on behalf of another person or organisation will not be accepted.
12. Strictly one entry per person.

## **Judging and the prizes:**

11. The judges' decision is final and no negotiations or correspondence with entrants will be entered into. The list of people acting as judges for the Award will be set out on our website when they have been finalised. The full criteria to be applied is set out in this document. From the entries the judges will select a shortlist of no more than 10 finalists.
12. Only shortlisted entrants will be contacted by The Guardian Foundation. Shortlisted entrants will be contacted by email by 7th March 2025. They will be given feedback on their work and the option to re-submit an edited version of their original piece ahead of final judgement.
13. Re-submissions must be an edited version of the original piece. Entrants who are shortlisted must not submit a new piece.
14. If shortlisted entrants fail to resubmit an edited version of their piece, the original piece will be submitted to the final judging panel.
15. The winner will receive a prize of £1000, have their piece published in the Guardian and have the opportunity to take part in 1 week of work experience.

# Terms and conditions (Cont.)

16. The runners up will receive a £200 prize and place to attend a Guardian Live event where available.

17. On announcement or shortly after, the winner will be given a letter notifying them of how to arrange their work experience. The runners up will be provided with the details of how to arrange their attendance to the masterclass.

18. If a winner or runner up is unable to attend the work experience or otherwise rejects the prize, the prize will be forfeited.

19. The Guardian Foundation retains the right to substitute the prize with another prize of similar value in the event the original prize offered is not available due to circumstances beyond its reasonable control.

20. The prizes are non-exchangeable, non-transferable, and are not redeemable for cash or other prizes.

## **Other terms and conditions:**

21. The winner and runners up will be required to be photographed or provide photos for promotional purposes.

22. Material entered will not be returned to senders.

23. The Guardian Foundation accepts no responsibility for any damage, loss, liabilities, injury or disappointment incurred or suffered by you as a result of entering the Award or accepting the prize. The Guardian Foundation further disclaims liability for any injury or damage to your or any other person's computer relating to or resulting from participation in or downloading any materials in connection with the Award. Nothing shall exclude the liability of The Guardian Foundation for death, fraud or personal injury as a result of its negligence.

24. In consideration of The Guardian Foundation agreeing to consider their entry, each entrant: (a) grants GNM and The Guardian Foundation a royalty-free licence to copy, edit, display, publish, broadcast and make available their entry in any format in connection with the Award or promotion of the Award; (b) agrees that GNM and The Guardian Foundation may publish their name in connection with the use of the entry; (c) warrants that the work submitted with their entry is their own or the relevant team's original work, that it is not defamatory and that it shall not infringe any third-party rights including, without limitation, privacy; and (d) agrees that GNM and The Guardian Foundation may grant to its partners and/or associated companies a sub-licence of the rights licensed to GNM under these terms and conditions on such terms as GNM and The Guardian Foundation shall agree in its sole discretion.

25. The Guardian Foundation reserves the right at any time and from time to time to modify or discontinue, temporarily or permanently, the Emerging Voices Awards or any feature thereof with or without prior notice due to reasons outside its control (including, without limitation, in the case of anticipated, suspected, or actual fraud).

26. The Emerging Voices Awards and these terms and conditions shall be governed by English law under the exclusive jurisdiction of the English courts.

# The Guardian Foundation

Our purpose is to promote global press freedom and access to liberal journalism.

By engaging with audiences and educators, in schools and communities, our media literacy work tackles disinformation, enhancing people's ability to critically evaluate news.

Through training, mentorship, bursaries and career guidance, we facilitate opportunities for people from underrepresented backgrounds to use their voice and agency and be included in the media.

By collaborating with fellow journalists and news organisations on areas that challenge their viability, we foster their capacity to engage people with fact-based journalism.

## Contact us about the award

King's Place, 90 York Way, London, N1 9GU

Website: [theguardianfoundation.org](https://theguardianfoundation.org)

Email: [awards@theguardianfoundation.org](mailto:awards@theguardianfoundation.org)