

The Guardian Foundation

Hugo Young Award

The Hugo Young Award is a writing competition created in memory of Hugo Young, a political columnist at The Guardian for almost 20 years and who died in 2003. Hugo was one of the most influential figures in British political journalism. An institution for the newspaper, his pronouncements twice a week were mandatory reading for all those who took politics seriously.

Championing the best political opinion writing amongst students and young people across the UK, this award celebrates Hugo's legacy by encouraging fresh voices, new perspectives and great writing which, now more than ever, are essential to the future of quality, independent political journalism.

We are inviting young people aged 18-25 to write a political opinion piece on a subject of their choosing. The winner will have their article published on theguardian.com and receive a £500 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 December
- Be written in your voice and style
- Offer a fresh perspective
- Have a well constructed, clear argument.

Submission

Applications open on 1st October 2021. To enter your piece for consideration, please email the following to hugoyoungaward@theguardianfoundation.org by 17th October 2021:

- Your article in PDF format without your name
- A completed submission form

Please read the full guidance and terms and conditions in this document before writing and submitting your article.

Judging

Articles will be shortlisted and judged by a panel made up of experienced Guardian journalists. If your article has been shortlisted, you will be notified by 3rd November.

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

Prizes

The winner of the Hugo Young Award will:

- Have the opportunity to attend work experience at the Guardian
- Have their piece published on the Guardian website
- Receive a trophy
- Receive £500.

The runner up will receive:

- A Guardian masterclass voucher up to the value of £50
- A certificate.

There is more guidance and full terms and conditions on the next few pages.

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 politics. Choose a subject and argument that you feel isn't currently well represented and that you can communicate well to your readers. 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. Start with what you know

You will probably write a stronger piece if you have some expertise in or experience of your subject (in your professional or personal life).

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 December). So choose a subject that is as broad as possible. It could be ongoing (for example, climate change, the impact of COVID-19 or Brexit) 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 Hugo Young Award is open only to those aged between 18 and 25 inclusively. You must be resident in the UK.
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. All applicants should submit their entries in PDF format, along with the submission form, to hugoyoungaward@theguardianfoundation.org. The deadline for all entries is 11.59pm on Sunday 17 October 2021. 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. 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.
8. Entrants may submit only one entry per year.
9. Entries on behalf of another person or organisation will not be accepted.

Judging and the prizes:

10. The list of people acting as judges for the Award will be set out [here](#) 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 15 finalists.
11. Only shortlisted entrants will be contacted by The Guardian Foundation. Shortlisted entrants will be contacted by email by 3rd November 2021. 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.
12. Re-submissions must be an edited version of the original piece. Entrants who are shortlisted must not submit a new piece.
13. The judges' decision is final and no negotiations or correspondence with entrants will be entered into.
14. The winner will receive a prize of £500, have their piece published on the Guardian website and have the opportunity to shadow a leading Guardian journalist.
15. The runners up will receive a place to attend a Guardian masterclass up to a value of £50.

Terms and conditions (Cont.)

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

17. If a winner or runner up is unable to attend the shadowing or otherwise rejects the prize, the prize will be forfeited.

18. 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.

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

Other terms and conditions:

20. Winner and runners up may be required for promotional activity.

21. Material entered will not be returned to senders.

22. 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.

23. 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.

24. The Guardian Foundation reserves the right at any time and from time to time to modify or discontinue, temporarily or permanently, the Hugo Young Award 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).

25. The Hugo Young Award and these terms and conditions shall be governed by English law under the exclusive jurisdiction of the English courts.

The Guardian Foundation

We are an independent charity that aims to increase access to the media for underrepresented voices. We support independent media under threat, promote diversity in the media and empower children and young people to engage with the news.

Contact us about the award

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

Website: theguardianfoundation.org

Email: hugoyoungaward@theguardianfoundation.org

Twitter: [@gdn_foundation](https://twitter.com/gdn_foundation)

Further guidance on opinion writing

We're launching our Behind the Headlines: media careers insight week on 27th September. This will be an opportunity for young people interested in careers in media to hear from professionals working in the field - from journalists to filmmakers to programmers. The week will give individuals a deeper understanding of the industry as well as tips and advice for breaking into it themselves.

On Friday 1st October, there will be a whole day dedicated to opinion writing, where experienced Guardian journalists will be giving their top writing tips. This will be a great opportunity for Hugo Young entrants to build on their writing skills ahead of submitting their piece.

Find out more [on our website](#). Or [follow us on twitter](#) to see content as it is released.