

The Young Hugo Award

The Young Hugo Award, run by The Guardian Foundation, is a writing competition for young people aged 16-18, encouraging fresh voices and great opinion writing from aspiring young journalists across the UK.

It runs alongside the Hugo Young Award, for ages 18+, which was created in memory of the late Hugo Young, a political columnist at the Guardian for almost 20 years and one of the most influential figures in British journalism.

We are inviting entries from those aged 16-18 to write a political opinion piece on a subject of their choice. Young people should apply via their teacher or youth group leader.



**The
Guardian
Foundation**

How to enter

Writing the article

Your article should:

- Be between 500-700 words
- Have a strong, coherent argument
- Be timely and linked to local, national or international politics
- Be in your own, unique voice
- Be well researched, showing a good grasp of the facts.

Please read the full guidance in this document before submission.

You can also follow [@gdn_foundation](#) on Twitter for more useful content, or [visit our website](#).

Submission

To enter a piece for consideration, your teacher/youth leader should email the following to hugoyoungaward@theguardianfoundation.org by 22nd October 2021.

- Titled article without your name (you should submit your article to your teacher)
- A completed submission form (your teacher/youth leader should fill this out)

We can only receive a maximum of 5 articles per school or youth group which must be submitted via the teacher /youth leader from their school/youth group email account.

Judging

The pieces will be judged by a panel made up of Guardian journalists. We will only inform your teacher/youth leader if you have been shortlisted. We will do this by 9th November.

Prizes

The winning piece will be published on the Guardian Foundation website. The winner will receive a free place at a Guardian Masterclass and a digital subscription to the Guardian. The winner's school/group will also receive a £100 Guardian Bookshop voucher.

The runner up will receive a certificate and a Guardian Masterclass voucher.

We look forward to reading your opinion pieces.

Further guidance

1. Find your own voice

We are not looking for a piece written “in the style of” Hugo Young or anyone else, we want to hear your voice and what you think. Choose a subject and argument that you feel isn't currently well represented and that you can communicate well to your readers.

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. For example, you could talk about something that is happening in your community, your school or college, or a decision made by someone else that is affecting your life in some way.

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. You can only do this if you have researched the subject matter.

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, the climate crisis, the impact of COVID-19 or Brexit) or something that hasn't happened yet, but will.

7. Don't feel limited

Politics is the choices that individuals, governments, corporations and other groups make, and how these 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, ask your teacher or youth group leader.

Terms and conditions

1. The Guardian Foundation Young Hugo Award is open only to young people aged 16-18 at schools, colleges or any type of youth group or organisation.
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. Teachers or youth workers should submit young people's entries in PDF format along with the submission form to hugoyoungaward@theguardianfoundation.org. Only teachers or youth workers can submit entries on behalf of young people in their care. The deadline for all entries is 11.59pm on 22 October 2021. Entries received after this deadline will not be processed.
4. A maximum of five articles from students can be submitted by each school, college, or group. Any additional articles will not be considered.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Entries must be the original work of the person responsible for the publication. Any evidence of plagiarism may result in the entrant being disqualified.
8. Parental permission must be secured by the adult submitting the entries. The Guardian Foundation cannot be held responsible if this has not been obtained.
9. All content must be original and any quotes must be real. Permission must be given from the person(s) quoted in the articles if personally obtained.
10. The Guardian Foundation will be publishing advice on writing opinion articles on their [website](#) and on [twitter](#) in the lead up to the competition, and while applications are open.
11. The winning article will be edited according to Guardian practice.

Judging and the prizes:

12. The judges' decision is final and no negotiations or correspondence with entrants will be entered into.
13. The winner of the Young Hugo Award will have their piece published on the Guardian Foundation website, receive a free place at a Guardian Masterclass (up to a value of £50) and a digital subscription. The winner's school/youth group will also receive a £100 Guardian Bookshop voucher.
14. 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.
15. The prizes are non-exchangeable, non-transferable, and are not redeemable for cash or other prizes.

Terms and conditions (cont.)

Other terms and conditions:

16. The winner and runners up will be required to be photographed for promotional purposes.

17. Material entered will not be returned to senders.

18. 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.

19. 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.

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

21. The Young Hugo 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.