



The New York Times Learning Network 2026-27 Student Contest Calendar



100-Word Personal Narrative Contest | Sept. 16-Oct. 28, 2026

In 100 words or fewer, tell a powerful story about a meaningful life experience.

What It's Like to Grow Up in 2026: A Visual Contest | Oct. 28-Dec. 9, 2026

Show us via any visual medium – including photography, drawing, painting, cartoons, comics, graphs, videos and more – what it's like to be a teenager now. What are the unique challenges your generation faces and the opportunities the world of 2026 offers you?

STEM Video Interview Contest | Jan. 6-Feb. 17, 2027

Create a video of up to two minutes interviewing an expert about a question of your choice related to science, health, math, engineering or technology.

Open Letter Contest | Feb. 17-March 31, 2027

Write a letter to a specific person or group that persuades them to make a change on an issue that matters to you.

Podcast Contest | March 31-May 12, 2027

Make an original podcast of no more than five minutes that informs or entertains listeners.

Summer Reading Contest | June 4-11; July 2-9; July 30-Aug. 6, 2027

Once each month during the summer we ask, "What got your attention in The Times recently?" Answer in writing or video.

Weekly Current Events Conversation | All School Year

Respond to our daily writing prompts. Each week we publish a selection of student comments.

Visit the [contest calendar](#) for more information.

Illustrations by Cindy Lozito



**The New York Times
Learning Network**