

Sci4Teens

Science Writing

Contest Rules

sci4teens.com

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Authored by:

Sci4Teens Executive Team

Intro to Sci4Teens

Helping teens get involved in science communication.

Welcome to **Sci4Teens**! We are a group of high school students across the world helping other teens get involved with science research, blogging, and communication through writing contests, newsletters, and workshops.

Sci4Teens also provides mentorship for students that have questions about science writing and research.

Our **third contest** will take submissions from **May 15 to August 15, 2021**. Anyone of the ages 13-18 is allowed to enter the contest!

Join our community Slack for networking, opportunities, and updates regarding the contest!

Contest #3: Climate Change

Focus: As summer is approaching and the days get hotter.... it is important that we highlight how climate change is a current issue that not only impacts our biological environment but also our human health as well. Let's take action!

We have **two options for submissions** this year:

- Blog Post
- Art Project

Option 1: Blog Post

- Write a blog-style post about climate change and its impacts.
- **Examples Include:**
 - Ocean acidification,
 - Biodiversity
 - Carbon footprint,
 - Rising temperatures
- Can be done in a group up to two
- Refer to the “**Sample Blog-Style Article**” on the Sci4Teens website under “Contest” to see how your entry is supposed to look.
 - **sci4teens.com**

Formatting Rules

Submit your articles in the MLA style format to avoid disqualification.

- The title of the file should be the title of the submitted article.
- Each submission should have a title, centered on the top of the submission.
- All submissions should be in 12 pt. Times New Roman font, in PDF format.
- Submissions should not exceed 800 words (not including the title and citations), although more concise articles are preferred
- Each submission must have an abstract, which summarizes the article in less than 150 words.
- Each submission must have a conclusion in the end.
- Each submission must have citations (and in-text citations) which follow the MLA Style Manual.

Option 2: Art Project

- Create an **art piece** that best fits your definition or idea about climate change.
 - Can be a physical work of art or digital. No preference will influence the judging.
- Write a 1-2 sentence description on what your art symbolizes.
- This is recommended to do by yourself
- Feel free to **be creative!** There is no specific prompt you need to follow.

Judging Rubric: Blog

Articles that are plagiarized will automatically be disqualified

Section	4 points	3 points	2 points	1 point	0 points
Abstract			<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Thoroughly summarizes all aspects of the article- Readers can know exactly what the article entails before reading the body- 150 words or fewer, concise- Explains any high-level scientific terminology- Grammatically correct	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Thoroughly summarizes most aspects of the article- Readers have a somewhat clear idea of what the article is about- 150 words or fewer, not necessarily concise- Explains some high-level scientific terminology- Somewhat grammatically correct	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Does not effectively summarize the article- Readers have an unclear idea of what the article is about- Greater than 150 words, not concise- Does not explain high-level scientific terminology- Not grammatically correct
Article Body	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Article topic is interesting, and is researched in depth- Divided into an appropriate number of sections, which makes article easy to understand- High-level scientific terminology explained- Tables and figures are clear with titles and captions- In third person (he/she/it)- Grammatically correct	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Article topic is interesting, and is researched somewhat deeply- Divided into slightly too many/too few sections- Most high-level scientific terminology explained- Tables and figures are mostly clear with titles and captions- In third person (he/she/it)- Mostly grammatically correct	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Article topic is somewhat interesting, and researched somewhat deeply- Divided into slightly too many/too few sections- Some high-level scientific terminology explained- Tables and figures are somewhat clear with titles and captions- In third person (he/she/it) most of the time- Somewhat grammatically correct	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Article topic is not very interesting, and not too much research is done- Divided into too many/too few sections- Most high-level scientific terminology is not explained- Tables and figures are unclear with unclear titles and captions- In third person only sometimes (he/she/it)- Somewhat grammatically correct	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Article topic is not very interesting, and almost no research has been done- Divided into too many/too few sections- Almost no high-level scientific terminology explained- Tables and figures are extremely unclear, have no titles and captions- Not in third person (he/she/it) most of the time- Not grammatically correct
Conclusion		<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Gives a concise, but effective summary of the article- Provides reasonable implications of scientific topic- Grammatically correct	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Summary of the article is too long/too short- Provides reasonable implications of scientific topic- Mostly grammatically correct	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Summary of the article is too long/too short- Provides somewhat reasonable implications of scientific topic- Somewhat grammatically correct	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Summary of the article either takes up the whole article or is not present- Provides unreasonable implications or no implications of scientific topic- Not grammatically correct
Citations				<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Sources are appropriately cited using MLA format	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Sources are incorrectly cited in MLA format

Judging Rubric: Art

Art pieces that are plagiarized will automatically be disqualified

Section	4 points	3 points	2 points	1 point	0 points
Effort/ Technical Skill			<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Execution ensures that the audience will understand the artwork- Artwork looks neat (whether it is digital or by hand) and confined- Focuses on a few elements well, rather than introducing too many/too few	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Execution ensures that the audience will somewhat understand the artwork- Artwork looks somewhat neat (whether it is digital or by hand) and confined- Focuses on a few elements, but it is not clear	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Audience does not understand the artwork- Artwork looks messy (whether it is digital or by hand)- Focuses on too many/too few elements
Creativity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Subject of artwork is well thought out and original- Artwork contains unique symbols (which should be explained in the explanation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Subject of artwork is somewhat well thought out and somewhat original- Artwork contains unique symbols (which should be explained in the explanation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Subject of artwork is somewhat well thought out and somewhat original- Artwork contains somewhat unique symbols (which should be explained in the explanation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Subject of artwork is not well thought out and not fully original- Artwork contains somewhat unique symbols (which should be explained in the explanation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Subject of artwork is not well thought out and not original- Artwork does not contain unique symbols (which should be explained in the explanation)
Explanation		<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Gives a concise, but effective summary of the symbolism in the art- Suggests reasonable implications of scientific topic- Grammatically correct	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Summary of the art is too long/too short- Suggests reasonable implications of scientific topic- Mostly grammatically correct	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Summary of the art is too long/too short- Provides somewhat reasonable implications of scientific topic- Somewhat grammatically correct	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Summary of the art either takes up the whole article or is not present- Provides unreasonable implications or no implications of scientific topic- Not grammatically correct

Contest Awards

Prizes will be awarded to the top three winners in each category.

- **1st Place** – Publication of piece in Cellfie Magazine, opportunity to give virtual presentation on a topic of their choice, opportunity to become a Sci4Teens Ambassador.
- **2nd Place** – Publication of piece in Cellfie Magazine, opportunity to give virtual presentation on a topic of their choice.
- **3rd Place** – Publication of piece in Cellfie Magazine.
- **Grand Prize** – Mentoring session with a representative from @impactmedialab.