

Center for Improving Youth Justice Pencil & Palette Creative Contest

We are excited to announce the second annual Center for Improving Youth Justice (CIYJ) Pencil & Palette Contest to showcase the artistic talents of justice-involved young people. The contest provides three distinct paths for them to showcase their creativity and perspectives. Participants can share poetry, drawing, or a short story/essay that relates to the contest theme: *Amplifying Voices, Amplifying Impact*.

Contestants will be asked to choose to answer one of the following questions with their art:

1. Think about the role of mentors and advocates in your life. How have they helped you find your voice?
2. Strength in Struggle: Tell us about a difficult time and how you found the strength to get through it.
3. Reflect on how your experiences have shaped who you are. What does it mean to be able to share your story?

Categories

1. Poetry

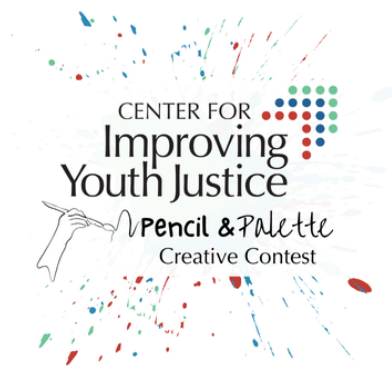
- Contestants can submit any original poetry. There are no length restrictions.

2. Drawing

- Contestants can submit an original drawing on 8x11 paper and a short explanation (200-400 words) describing how their artwork relates to the question they chose to answer. Color drawings are preferred. Black and white drawings will be accepted but not eligible to become the cover of the CIYJ Annual Report.

3. Short Story/Essay

- Contestants can submit a short story or essay exploring the theme. The length should be between 1,000 and 1,500 words.



Guidelines

- Eligibility: Open to all young people in participating CIYJ Performance-based Standards programs.
- Entry Period: Aug. 18 – Sept. 30
- Format: Entries should be submitted as either a PDF, JPEG or PNG
- Evaluation Criteria: Creativity, relevance to the theme, ability to answer the chosen question, originality and clarity of expression.
- Winners will be announced after judging takes place in late October/early November.

How to Submit

- Entries should be uploaded to our website. Visit: <https://improvingyouthjustice.org/pencil-palette-creative-contest/>

Prizes

- Three \$500 Cash Prizes, one to each of the winners in the three categories.
- Winning Drawing: The winning drawing will be the cover of the CIYJ annual report.
- Featured Pieces: The short story and poetry winners will have their pieces featured in the CIYJ annual report.

****Name Sharing Policy****

CIYJ's policy is to share a young person's first name when publicizing their art and the facility's name. If the young person prefers to be anonymous, please make sure to indicate the preference on the online upload form.

We look forward to seeing the creative works and expressions!

For any questions, please get in touch with us at help@improvingyouthjustice.org.