

---

# Guidelines for Graphic Short Story Contest

The following specifications must be adhered to in order to qualify for the Graphic Short Story Contest.

## Dimensions:

- It should be possible for your final stories to be posted on our Instagram as a slideshow. So when you're sketching out your storyboards, note that there is a 10 slide maximum, and keep the following dimensions in mind.
- The ideal size for square posts is 1080px by 1080px at a 1:1 aspect ratio.
- For horizontal posts should be sized at 1080px by 566px, with an aspect ratio of 1.91:1.
- Vertical images should be sized at 1080px by 1350px, with a 4:5 aspect ratio.
- Those creating art by hand, we suggest sticking to squares. (Tip: you can take a photo of your art to check its visibility and legibility when sized for social media.)

## Art Guidelines:

- Use both pictures and words (narration + speech and thought bubbles) to tell a story. Please avoid using first person narrative for someone other than yourself unless you've obtained permission.
- Your final art can be digital or created by hand (i.e., colored pencil, marker, water color, acrylic paint, oil pastel, and/or even collage.)
- If your final art is in black and white, without color, we strongly encourage that you include shading to give your images more dimension and a final, polished look.
- Include a cover page that has art, the name of your organization, and your name.
- Final lettering, if written by hand, must be as legible as possible and done in pen or fine tip marker. (Although, we strongly encourage you to write out your text in pencil first).

- Your graphic short story must have a cover page, be a minimum of 3 pages/slides of content and a maximum of 9 pages/slides of content. So make sure you submit a story that is 4-10 slides long including a cover page.
- For your final panel(s), we ask that you ***end your graphic short story with something hopeful and solutions-oriented.*** Give suggestions for actions that can be taken by readers and illustrate what the world and/or these characters' lives would look like if solutions were put in place.
- Reminder: while your final art should look and feel final and polished, all skill levels in art are welcome! The main goal is not about artistic talent but about using your voice to raise awareness.
- Resource: Be sure to review our [Suggestions for Creating A Graphic Short Story](#) for suggestions on the full creative process.

#### **File Format**

- Submit each page/slide as an individual file. All files should be hi res (300 dpi).
- Art created by hand should be submitted digitally as good quality, hi res scans (300 dpi). If you don't have access to a scanner, you may take photos, but no shadows or angles and make sure your art is well lit.
- **Note: Do NOT** delete or throw away any of your art after submitting your files because we may ask you to go back and correct a typo or incorrect fact.

#### **Other Specifications:**

- Entry deadline is Wednesday, November 15, 2023 (11:59pm EST).
- Your full entry must include:
  1. An upload of your files for each page/slide of your story
  2. An upload of your signed [Parent/Legal Guardian Consent Form](#) as a .pdf or .jpg file (must be 300 dpi). The form must be completed and uploaded, and don't forget the signature!
  3. Completing the [Contest Entry Form](#) where you'll be uploading items 1 and 2.
- You may not share your design on social media or in any public manner until after the winners are announced (late December of 2023.)