

Judging Criteria for Graphic Short Story Contest

Our panel of **judges** made up of **5 former Rising Earth College Interns**, all of whom are familiar with our story projects in the past, will select the **4 winners!**

The judges will blindly score each entry based on the following **9 categories:**

1. **VOICE:** Creator's own voice/Individuality/Originality. Rising Earth works to honor and hear voices of the youth. The reader is able to hear the story's individual voice.
2. **DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES:** Rising Earth works to expose youth to diverse worldviews regarding human relationship with nature. The reader is able to understand multiple/diverse experiences and/or perspectives from the story.
3. **INFORMATION:** Understanding of the issue. The story gives the reader a sense of where we are now and how we might progress from here through the information presented in the story.
4. **CREATIVITY:** While the applicant does not need refined artistic skills, the story portrays a unique and creative graphic short through the story and message.
5. **TEXT:** While there were no specifications for min/max word count, the story provides relevant, engaging, and enlightening text. The readers should not feel overwhelmed by the amount of text overall and on each slide.
6. **COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION THEME:** The theme for this year's stories was to highlight a community organization working to solve an issue. The creator did a good job presenting the organization through the story.
7. **INSPIRED TO TAKE ACTION:** The story informed readers about action that can be taken. Readers are left feeling hopeful and inspired to get involved and know how to do so.
8. **ENTERTAINING:** The storytelling is engaging and enjoyable. Readers are drawn in by the characters/dialogue/narration, and want to keep reading throughout.
9. **OVERALL IMPRESSION:** Effort and care is evident in the final submission. Beyond the above criteria, readers are left with a strong overall impression about the entry.