

Contests

The Winners of Our 9th Annual Student Editorial Contest

Memos and mental health, book bans and biking: Young people tell us about the issues that matter most to them.

One of the top 11 winners of our 2022 contest, Aria Capelli, used this Guest Essay, "[The New American Dream Home Is One You Never Have to Leave](#)," as a source for her essay.



Credit...Igor Bastidas

By The Learning Network

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If you've been following along over the nine years we've run our [Student Editorial Contest](#), you know that every spring we invite middle and high school students around the world to craft opinion pieces on any topic they like — as long as they can make their arguments in 450 words or fewer.

Thanks to the [many teachers](#) who have adopted this challenge, every year we receive thousands of essays. This year, however, was one for the record books: 16,664 submissions came in, about 5,000 more than ever before. To consider them all, we enlisted 68 judges who worked over two months and six rounds of reading to choose the 200-plus students we honor below and via this [PDF](#) which lists all finalists.

As always, these essays offer a window into a generation's views on the issues that concern them most — whether problems like climate change and political dysfunction that affect us all, or teen-specific realities like school dress codes and growing up in today's internet culture.

But, as always, they also introduce us to fresh ideas and solutions. This year's winners explain the benefits of multigenerational living, why Gen Z should consider farming as a career, how memes allow young people to join global conversations, and why schools need to pay more attention to the millions of mixed-race students entering their classrooms.

We'll be publishing the work of the top winners and the runners-up in [this column](#) over the next week, three pieces every school day. We hope they'll help you see the world in new ways. Please let these students know what you think by leaving your comments.

Thank you to everyone who participated — and we hope you'll take part in our [Summer Reading Contest](#), which runs from now until Aug. 19.

- Thanks for reading The Times.

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(Note to students: We have published the names, ages and schools of students from whom we have received permission to do so. If you would like yours published, please write to us at LNFeedback@nytimes.com.)

Student Editorial Contest Winners

In alphabetical order, by the writer's last name.

Winners

- ✓ Aria Capelli, age 16, The Athenian School, Danville, Calif.: “[Bunking With Grandma: Lessons From My Multi-Generational Pandemic Bubble](#)”
- ✓ Aimee Choi, age 17, Seoul International School, Seongnam, South Korea: “[Planting the Next Chapter of Farming](#)”
- ✓ Lucas Cohen-d’Arbeloff, age 17, Harvard-Westlake School, Los Angeles: “[How ‘Don’t Say Gay’ Diminishes Same-Sex Parents and Their Children](#)”
- ✓ Kate-Yeonjae Jeong, age 17, Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, Houston: “[To Meme or Not to Meme](#)”
- ✓ Ketong Li, age 17, Miss Porter’s School, Farmington, Conn.: “[High on Helping: The Dangers of Voluntourism](#)”
- ✓ Serena Liu, age 15, Parkway West High School, Chesterfield, Mo.: “[Stolen Art: Why We Need Repatriation](#)”
- ✓ Emerson Riter, age 15, The Masters School, Dobbs Ferry, N.Y.: “[After Treatment Comes a New Battle, and Cancer Patients Aren’t Prepared](#)”
- ✓ Louisa Rosenberg-Chiriboga, age 15, Francis Parker School, San Diego: “[Black, White and Somewhere in Between](#)”
- ✓ Katherine Shao, age 16, Mercer Island High School, Mercer Island, Wash.: “[Megaconstellations: ‘Stars’ You Don’t Want to See in the Sky](#)”
- ✓ Evelyn Wang, age 17, Naperville North High School, Naperville, Ill.: “[How Fast Fashion Became Faster — and Worse for the Earth](#)”
- ✓ Zoe Yu, age 17, The Woodlands College Park High School, The Woodlands, Texas: “[Endangered Languages Are Worth Saving](#)”