YOUTH VOICES

A Contest for Youth Ages 14-18

CONTEST TOPIC:
What’s the role of POLICING in fostering DEMOCRACY?

ENTRIES DUE NOV. 15th

- You must be 14-18 years old to enter.
- Submissions can be in one of three categories: writing, artwork, or video.
- Three prizes will be awarded in each category.

TOP PRIZE $1,000
You(th) Matter invites you to express your views on the relationship between policing and democracy, in a national competition to win cash prizes. We want to hear from you! The Youth Voices contest will showcase youth writing, film, and artwork from communities nationwide.

**This Year's Topic**

**What is the role of policing in fostering democracy “by the people, for the people”?**

There are many ways to address this question. Suggestions are listed below. These are meant to provide inspiration and a starting point. You can choose one or focus on the general topic from your unique point of view.

- What does policing in the United States need in order to better reflect democratic values?
- How could the idea of democratic checks and balances be applied to American policing to promote justice and equity?
- Do local police understand your community and the relevance of the democratic principle “by the people, for the people” in their work?
- What would you want police officers to know to better help them understand and serve your community?

**Choose a Category for Your Entry**

**CATEGORY 1: WRITING**

Your entry may be an essay, poem, or story between 500-2000 words in length. All writing must be submitted as a pdf or Word document.

**CATEGORY 2: ARTWORK**

Entries in this category will be submitted as a photograph or scan of your original artwork. Your original artwork can be a drawing, painting, cartoon (single panel or panel cartoon strip), a photograph or collage of photographs.

**CATEGORY 3: VIDEO**

A video entry can be a documentary, skit, animation, song, rap, or spoken word piece. Video run time should be limited to 5 minutes or less.

**Prizes**

Nine prizes will be awarded in total—to the winner, first runner-up, and second runner-up in each category.

- Each winner will receive $1,000.
- Each first runner-up will receive $500.
- Each second runner-up will receive $250.

**Eligibility and Guidelines**

- Contestants must be between 14-18 years old.
- Each contestant may only submit one entry.
- All submissions must include your name, age, and location. This information will be kept confidential and will be used only for contest purposes.
- All artwork and video must include a written description (100-200 words) about the artist’s intent and the inspiration behind it.
- Entries must be submitted or postmarked by midnight EST, Nov. 15, 2021.
- Participants must agree to grant copyright permission to You(th) Matter Strategies for Youth. All entries will become property of You(th) Matter and Strategies for Youth for exclusive use and reproduction.

**How To Submit Your Entry**


**OR MAIL:** Mail your submission to:
Strategies for Youth & You(th) Matter, Youth Voices Contest,
P.O. Box 390174, Cambridge, MA 02139

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**Contest Sponsored By**

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