



Art Contest Use of AI-Assisted Imagery Guidelines Amendment

Why This Amendment?

As AI-based design tools become more accessible, this update ensures the contest continues to emphasize student creativity and original ideas, while acknowledging that AI can be a valuable refinement tool—not a substitute for the student’s vision. This update protects the integrity of the contest, aligns with intellectual-property best practices, and clarifies expectations for entrants.

1. Original Concept Requirement

- All entries must begin with the student’s own original idea, sketch or design. The student must submit a clear representation of their initial concept (for example: a pencil or marker sketch, digital rough-layout, or other hand-made visual).
- The original concept must be the student’s own work—no tracing or copying of existing copyrighted imagery or stock assets.
- When submitting, students must attach or upload the original concept alongside the final artwork so that the development from idea to finished piece is evident.

2. Permitted Use of AI Tools

- Students may use artificial-intelligence (AI) tools (such as generative-image models, AI filters, or AI-based refinement tools) only after the original concept has been created by the student.

- AI may be used for enhancing, refining, modifying or stylizing the student's original design — for example: improving composition, refining line work, adjusting color palette, enhancing texture, or adding background elements — but not to replace the student's own creative concept.
- The student must clearly indicate which portions of the artwork were AI-enhanced or assisted. If major elements (characters, background, layout) were generated by AI from scratch, the entry may be disqualified under “originality” rules.

3. Documentation of Process

- When AI tools are used, the student (or teacher) must include a brief “Process Statement” stating:
 1. Which AI tool(s) were used and how they were used (e.g., “I created a pencil sketch of Windy, then used an AI filter to add a wind-swirl effect and refined colors in a digital editor”).
 2. How the student further refined or adapted the AI output to produce the final submission.
- This Process Statement becomes part of the entry and is subject to review by the judges.

4. Ownership and Rights

- The submitted artwork must be the student's work and must comply with the existing rule that “computer-generated artwork is acceptable” under the condition it is the student's original work.
- If AI-generated elements are incorporated, the student warrants that any third-party AI content used is properly permitted by the tool's terms of service and that the student's modifications make the design sufficiently original.
- By submitting, the student grants MLGW the right to reproduce the artwork (including AI-refined elements) for promotional, display and educational purposes, consistent with the standard contest release form.

5. Judging Considerations

- Judges will evaluate entries on the same criteria outlined in the contest guidelines: artistic merits and creativity; representation of the theme character; use of the MLGW logo; expression of the theme; etc.
- When AI tools have been used, judges will also assess how well the student's original idea is reflected, how skillfully the student has used and adapted AI assistance, and how much the final piece reflects the student's own creative hand.
- Entries that rely heavily on AI generation (i.e., where the student's contribution is minimal or not clearly documented) may be deemed ineligible or receive lower scoring in the "originality" dimension.

6. Submission Requirements

- Entries must still conform to all physical/digital submission specifications: size (11" × 17" vertical with margin), inclusion of MLGW logo, mount board for physical entries, entry/release form attached.
- Alongside the final artwork and release form, students using AI tools must also include:
 - The original concept sketch/design (as image or scan).
 - The Process Statement describing AI use.
 - Clearly labelled which file is the final submission.
- Failure to submit the original concept sketch or Process Statement may result in disqualification.

7. Integrity and Ethical Use

- All participants are expected to uphold academic honesty and integrity: the original concept must be the student's own creation and any AI-enhancement must be transparently disclosed.
- Use of copyrighted or licensed assets (images/graphics) remain prohibited and will be treated under the existing "use of copyrighted material" rule.
- Teachers and parents assisting younger students should ensure the student's contribution remains dominant and clearly documented.