



American
Red Cross

Youth Action Campaign

Presenting the 5th Annual **Student Art & Essay Competition:** **Exploring Space Law and Armed Conflict**

The American Red Cross is proud to announce the 5th Annual International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Student Art and Essay Competition. This annual event challenges participants to thoughtfully apply IHL, the body of international law governing armed conflict, to a specific theme.

This year, participants are invited to explore the theme of **Space Law and the implications of Armed Conflict in outer space.**

Why IHL?

As armed conflicts continue to plague our world, the Art and Essay competition aims to promote understanding of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and the critical role it plays in mitigating the destructive impacts of war and in safeguarding the innocent during times of armed conflict. International Humanitarian Law (IHL) is the body of international law that governs how armed conflicts are fought. It is based on an extensive set of international treaties, agreements, and long-standing customs, all of which aim protect people and places in armed conflict by regulating the weapons and tactics in war.

Competition Age Categories

The competition is open to all U.S. citizens, regardless of location, and foreign nationals residing in the United States, overseas U.S. military bases or U.S. territories. Art and Essay entries will be accepted from the following categories:

- 1) Junior High (8th grade)
- 2) High School I (Grades 9-10)
- 3) High School II (Grades 11-12)
- 4) Undergraduate Students
- 5) Law school and Graduate School Students (Masters, L.L.M., PhD, etc.)



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International
Humanitarian Law



Deadlines

- Submissions will be accepted **beginning on Friday, November 1, 2024.**

The deadline for submission is 11:59pm (Eastern Standard Time) on Friday, January 31, 2025.

- The American Red Cross will contact all winners by end of February 2025.

Competition Theme

Each year, entrants are challenged with creating thoughtful and insightful entries around a specific IHL theme. This year's theme is **Space Law and Armed Conflict** including the role of IHL in helping protect humanity from the devastating effects of these weapons. Although the nature of each essay or art submission is up to the creator, entrants are asked to explore topics within the theme including how the engagement in outer space by public and private actors is regulated by international law.

Potential topics to consider:

- How does the use of satellites and the resulting space debris impact civilian populations and how does the law protect them?
- What consequences does the increased human presence in space pose for civilians and the environment?
- How does IHL apply to military, civilian and dual use satellites?
- What protections exist, and what protections are lacking, in the use of outer space in armed conflict?
- What Treaties and agreements currently exist as bodies of law regulating activities in space and what are the IHL implications?
- What legal protections exist for celestial bodies, like the moon, astronauts and satellites?





Essay Competition

Guidelines

- Maximum word count of 1,500 words; excluding title page, footnotes, and bibliography.
- Include a title page with the title, author's name, pronouns, competition age category, Red Cross region (if applicable,) school name, grade (for high school,) year (for undergraduate,) or graduate degree program type, email, city, and state.
- Essays must be written solely by the candidate and cannot have been previously published. **AI generated works will NOT be accepted and will result in disqualification.**
- Only one essay submission will be accepted per person. Essay entrants may submit a separate entry for the art portion of the competition (art competition entries must adhere to the art competition standards.)
- Essays must be written in English, typed with 12pt font, and uploaded as a PDF. We encourage you to keep an original in an editable file (word doc, etc.)
- Submissions must include proper, consistent citations and a bibliography in MLA or APA style.
- Entries must be submitted via the official Student Art & Essay online form link:
 - www.surveyming.com/survey/2025IHLArtEssayComp



The competition committee reserves the right to disqualify any entry that does not meet the competition requirements.

Evaluation & Prizes

Winning entries will be chosen by a panel of IHL experts selected by the American Red Cross. **Essays will be evaluated on the following criteria:**

Critical Thinking and Analysis (25%)

Presentation and Clarity (25%)

Evidence Supported Argument (25%)

Relevance to the Theme (25%)

First place entries from each age category will receive a \$100 gift card and an American Red Cross recognition certificate for their efforts. Additionally, **winners and finalists will be eligible to have their entry published in the annual American Red Cross digital magazine** that is published widely to the public.





Art Competition

Guidelines

- Pieces must be in the mediums of visual art within the following categories: drawing, painting, prints, mixed media, collage, photography, or digital art. **Do not use any copyrighted images or elements in your piece.**
- Include a title page with the title, author's name, pronouns, competition age category, Red Cross region (if applicable,) school name, grade (for high school,) year (for undergraduate,) or graduate degree program type, email, city, and state.
- Must include a **brief written description** of the piece no longer than 150 words, which explains the entry and how it relates to the theme.
- Submit, in PDF, or digital image file format (e.g. PNG or JPEG) either the art itself or a clear photo of the piece (for non-digital submissions.)
- Pieces must be created solely by the candidate and cannot have been previously published. **AI generated works will NOT be accepted and will result in disqualification.**
- Only one art submission will be accepted per person. Entrants **may not** submit entries for multiple art mediums. Art competition entrants may submit a separate entry for the essay competition (essay competition entries must adhere to the essay competition standards).
- Entries must be submitted via the official Student Art & Essay online form link:
 - www.surveymonkey.com/survey/2025IHLArtEssayComp



The competition committee reserves the right to disqualify any entry that does not meet the competition requirements.

Evaluation & Prizes

Winning entries will be chosen by a panel of IHL experts selected by the American Red Cross and its co-sponsors. **Art will be evaluated on the following criteria:**

Creativity and Originality (25%)

Overall Composition (25%)

Quality of Artistic Composition (25%)

Interpretation And Relevance to Theme (25%)

First place entries from each age category will receive a \$100 gift card and an American Red Cross recognition certificate for their efforts. Additionally, **winners and finalists will be eligible to have their entry published in the annual American Red Cross digital magazine** that is published widely to the public.

