

YoungArts 2024 Application Requirements

Writing: Spoken Word

Please be sure you follow all requirements related to your application. Failure to comply with any of the requirements listed below may make your application ineligible for an award.

Spoken Word Application Requirements

- Two (2) to three (3) written poems. Total written materials not to exceed 10 pages.
- Separate video performance for each poetry submission.
- Submissions must be in English. If words or phrases in another language are used, translations must be included in the written portion.

Note: If you are selected as a Winner and attend a YoungArts program, you will be part of a published anthology of works based on your writing submissions. The editor will be making their selections for the anthology from your submissions. If selected as a Finalist, you will also perform one of your works live during YoungArts Week.

Guidelines for Recording your Video Audition

- Your audition will be viewed on a large screen, please be sure your image is clear. The panel must be able to see your facial expressions to properly adjudicate your work.
- Props are limited to one stool, two chairs, and one table.
- Use a fixed point of view for your camera with you being the main focus. Shoot straight on, leaving the camera in one location. Do not pan or move the camera.
- Record your audition in a clearly defined interior space.
- The backdrop should be a neutral color that is free of creases, breaks and distractions.
- Background music or soundtracks of any kind are not permitted.

Before recording your pieces, film a test. Perform the first few lines of your piece, then watch and listen to it on playback. Check the following important things:

- **Sound:** Make sure the acoustics in the room are strong. Practice your piece in the space. If you hear an echo in playback, adjust the recording volume, or choose someplace else to record. Utilize only the microphone on the video camera. Do not use a handheld microphone. No mics should be seen in the frame while recording your piece.
- **Lighting:** Make sure the space is well-lit, but not too bright. Judges should be able to see your face clearly. Too little light and judges may not be able to see you. Too much light will leave you overexposed, and judges cannot see your expressions.
- **Framing:** The camera should be set at a distance to frame your face and body clearly. If judges only see your face and shoulders, it's too close. If judges can see the entire background but your facial expressions cannot be seen clearly, it's too far away.
- **Clothing:** Wear clothing that is simple, comfortable, and tasteful. And remember, your clothing should never be more interesting than your audition. For example, stripes, patterns, or large advertisements can be very distracting. Wear something that has a gentle contrast to the backdrop and will help us see you clearly. If you are recording against a black backdrop, do not wear black. Please do not wear large jewelry. No costumes are permitted.

Media Submission Requirements

Written content:

- Do not submit research papers, book reports or specific class assignments.
- Be sure to keep a copy of your work for your files.
- Typed, formatting may reflect the intention of the author.
- Please include page numbers.
- Proofread your entire submission before uploading.

Uploading submission:

- Each piece should be saved as a separate file and uploaded individually.
- List the title of the work in the space provided.
- When uploading, verify that the image is upright (not sideways) and plays smoothly.
- Save and name your files with their titles and upload each selection separately.
- Do not put your name or any identifying information in or on your submission.
- Please do not do any of the following to your video as it may disqualify you:
 - ▶ Do not edit within a piece.
 - ▶ Do not use special effects, dissolves, fades or wipes.
 - ▶ Do not submit pre-recorded live performances, such as recitals, concerts, or competitions.

Intellectual Property and Copyright Requirements

- All submitted work must be wholly original and may not infringe upon the copyright or other intellectual property or other legal or moral rights of any other person or entity.
- If your work has been submitted to other competitions, you are responsible for getting permission to submit to YoungArts.

Reviewers and Panel are looking for:

- We are looking for command of the tools of language and performance, originality, imagination, depth of ideas, and overall excellence.