

Students

Student Achievement Awards Success Tips

START EARLY

The annual theme for the Student Achievement Awards is revealed by June. Submit your work to your school contact before the in-school deadline.

Plan accordingly.

AVOID CLICHÉS

If the theme is “transformation,” expect everyone else to use butterflies as symbols. If the theme is “peace,” expect people to use doves. Try to be original and distinguish your entry from others’ by being creative, original and unique.

MAKE SURE YOUR ENTRY REFLECTS THE THEME

Judges are going to look for a clear connection between the assigned theme and your work. They are also looking at the journey you have taken as a person and how that may have influenced the work that you have submitted.

HAVE FUN WITH THE THEME

While you want to stick with the theme, do not be afraid to experiment with it. Themes are purposely chosen to be open to some interpretation. Be creative!

ALSO:

Visual art pieces, including media, should include an artist’s statement consisting of a few paragraphs (or video or audio statement), introducing the judges to your work.

If you submit a video, include which media player should be used. USB keys are preferred over DVD. Uploading your video to YouTube is the most preferred method.

If you submit an audio recording or an original song, please include lyrics and if you were accompanied or played your own instrument.

If your visual arts entry is made up of more than one piece, including an explanation as to how the judges should view it.

Remember that the Student Achievement Awards celebrates the work of students and members of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers’ Federation (OSSTF/FEESO). A sponsoring OSSTF/FEESO member is there to give guidance on your entry. They can advise, edit, direct or inspire but they should be part of the process, not just a witness that you completed the work.

A completed entry form signed by your OSSTF/FEESO sponsor (teacher or support staff member at your school) must accompany every entry.

Winners will be notified late January and entries will not be returned until the beginning of May.