



## 2019 MODERN MASTERS OF AMERICA FINE ART CONTEST INSTRUCTIONS

Welcome to the **Operation Protect and Defend (OPD) Modern Masters of America Fine Art Contest**. This contest offers students the opportunity to express their views on important Constitutional issues through the vehicle of artistic expression.

**Eligibility:** To submit an art piece, you must participate in the *Dialogue on America*, either through a social studies or law class that is participating in the program. Your teacher will provide the requirements for the *Dialogue* in class. Up to 10 students from each school participating in the Fine Art Contest may submit artwork. You should sign up with your teacher, who will submit your name to your school's lead teacher for **Operation Protect & Defend**. The lead teacher will determine which students will represent their school.

**Art Forms:** Fixed medium capable of display on a table or wall, performance art, music, or video.

**Size Limits:** Art must fit through a standard doorway without dismantling, and be capable of display on a table or wall without structural modifications. All wall mounted artwork (paintings, drawings, prints, collages, etc) must be framed, wired or matted, ready for installation. Performance art, music, or video must be viewable in DVD format and be 1 - 3 minutes in duration. Each piece must be signed by the student, with the student's full name, teacher's name and school identified on the reverse side of the work. If you have a question about whether a concept/piece will be permitted, ask your school's lead teacher. OPD program leaders reserve the right to reject any submission in their sole discretion. If you require assistance obtaining art supplies, please contact your lead teacher who will then contact OPD program leaders.

Pieces must be submitted at the time and place designated. All art submissions must be ready for hanging or display, with the Piece Description provided below completed in full, attached to the piece, and delivered to the designated location at the designated time. *Late submissions will not be accepted under any circumstances.*



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**Event: Operation Protect and Defend** will hold a gallery reception on **Thursday, March 28, 2019** at **Viewpoint Gallery** located at **2015 J Street, Suite 101, Sacramento, CA 95811** from **5:30pm-7:30pm**. At the reception, students will discuss their art pieces with federal and state court judges, professional artists and industry experts, law professors, lawyers, high school teachers, and business leaders. Art “judges” at the reception will select the top pieces. Cash prizes will be awarded as follows:

**Platinum Award - \$1,000**  
**Gold Award - \$800**  
**Silver Award - \$600**  
**Bronze Award - \$300**  
**Honorable Mention Awards - \$100 each**

### **Steps to Participate:**

- Step 1:** Participate in the Dialogue on America and sign up with your teacher.
- Step 2:** Using the prompt below, create a work of art that demonstrates your understanding of the curriculum.
- Step 3:** Register your art piece by completing the attached form and returning it to your teacher.
- Step 4:** Deliver your art piece on **Wednesday, March 27, 2019 between 2:30 pm and 6:00 pm** to **California Lawyers for the Arts**, located at **2015 J Street, Suite 204, Sacramento, CA 95811**. Your piece must be ready to display with a completed Piece Description attached.
- Step 5:** Join us for the art exhibit at **Viewpoint Gallery, located at 2015 J Street, Suite 101, Sacramento, CA 95811 on Thursday, March 28, 2019 from 5:30-7:00 pm** with your parents and teacher if possible.
- Step 6:** The Modern Masters Committee will notify teachers of the winning entries on Monday, April 1, 2019. **The Committee will store winning pieces and hold them for display at the awards dinner at the Golden One Center in May 2018. Other entries must be picked up from California Lawyers for the Arts on Tuesday, April 2, 2019 between 2:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.**

**2019 MODERN MASTERS OF AMERICA FINE ART  
PIECE DESCRIPTION AND STUDENT RELEASE FORM**

NAME OF STUDENT ARTIST:	
STUDENT EMAIL:	
STUDENT CELL #:	
SCHOOL:	
TEACHER:	
TITLE OF ARTWORK:	
MEDIUM:	
Brief description of how the piece addresses the curriculum:	
Artist statement of 1 paragraph that tells us something interesting about the artist, and relates the artist's thoughts behind the artwork:	
<p>I certify that this work of art is my original work and that it was created as a part of my school curriculum. By submitting my art in this contest, I give permission for my headshot to be displayed beside my artwork while on display, and for my artwork to be reproduced and used for educational and promotional purposes related to the Operation Protect and Defend program. I give permission for my work, and any photos taken of me or my work, to be reprinted and used for educational and promotional purposes</p>	
Date: _____, 2019	<hr/> Student signature

**Winning pieces be displayed at the Sacramento Federal Judicial Library and Learning Center located at The Robert T. Matsui U.S. Courthouse, 501 I Street, Room 4-200, Sacramento, CA 95814.**



## 2019 MODERN MASTERS OF AMERICA FINE ART CONTEST PROMPT

One of the founding principles of the United States was the ability of “the people” to elect leaders in free and fair elections, ensuring that the government represented the values and ideals of the governed. At the inception of the United States, though, “the people” referred to property-owning white men. Throughout American history, great strides have been made to ensure that every American, regardless of race or color, is given the opportunity to exercise the right to vote. That progress has not come easily, and barriers to voting still exist today. Each step forward has come with additional hurdles for citizens to overcome in pursuit of the right to vote.

1865—The 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibited slavery.

- Afterward, some states created laws known as “black codes” that significantly restricted the mobility and employment choices of African Americans.

1868—The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution ensured the rights of freedom to all persons born or naturalized in the United States, including emancipated slaves, guaranteeing those citizens “equal protection of the laws.”

- Afterward, several southern states enacted oppressive laws that created barriers to voting.



1870—The 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibits the government from creating laws, policies, and other barriers to prevent citizens from voting merely because of their race or color.

- Afterward, states adopted various discriminatory practices including poll taxes and literacy tests—along with intimidation and outright violence—to prevent African Americans from exercising their right to vote.

1964—The 24<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibits any poll taxes in federal elections.

1965—The Voting Rights Act of 1965 is signed into law to clarify and reinforce the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment by expressly eliminating state-imposed voting barriers such as literacy tests and poll taxes.

- Afterward, in 2000, many states engaged in redistricting that gave a political advantage to one political party at the expense of another.



**Provide an artistic expression of why you believe the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is, or is not, necessary today. You may consider personal experience, media coverage, as well as the cases of *Shelby County v. Holder*, *Veasey I*, *Luna v. County of Kern*, and *Veasey II* as appropriate.**