



2021 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.

The Contest: Art submissions must be received by **March 21, 2021**. Operation Protect and Defend will hold a virtual gallery showing in April 2021. At the virtual showing, art "judges" will view the images and descriptions of the submitted art pieces and determine award winners using an established rubric. Artists will be expected to be present to answer questions from the scoring judges. **Winners will be notified by the end of April 2021**. OPD will hold a virtual awards ceremony in early May 2021.

The Prizes: At the ceremony, cash prizes will be awarded to the top pieces as follows:

Platinum Award - \$1,000

Gold Award - \$800

Silver Award - \$600

Bronze Award - \$300

Honorable Mention Awards - \$100 each

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

Art Supplies: Students are free to use whatever art supplies and art form(s) they choose. OPD is also offering to provide one art kit per student, upon request. We can provide either a painting kit, a drawing kit or a sculpting kit. If you require assistance obtaining art supplies, please contact your lead teacher who will then contact OPD program leaders.

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. Every interested student must sign up with their teacher, who will submit their name to the school's lead

teacher for Operation Protect & Defend. The lead teacher will determine which students will represent their school.

Size Limits: Art must fit through a standard doorway without being dismantled, 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.

The Prompt: Submit a piece that expresses your understanding of the 14th Amendment, the 1965 Voting Rights Act, and your duty to vote.

Submissions: Pieces must be submitted at the time and place designated. All art submissions must be accompanied by a completed Piece Description provided below. Late submissions will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Steps to Participate:

Step 1: Participate in the Dialogue on America

Step 2: Sign up with your teacher.

Step 3: Create and submit a work of art that expresses your understanding of the 14th Amendment, the 1965 Voting Rights Act, and your duty to vote.

Step 4: Go here: <http://www.opdcivics.org/mma-submission-form> to register and submit your artwork by Sunday, March 21, 2021. On that page, you must submit photographs of your work.

***If possible, please record and submit a video or audio recording describing your artwork. This will assist the judges, and may be used at the virtual ceremony. Send us your video or audio recording by going here: <https://wetransfer.com/>. Be sure to put your full name in the "Message" box. Our email address is modernmasters@opdcivics.org.

Step 5: The Modern Masters of Fine Art Committee will notify teachers of the winning entries in late April 2021 after the virtual gallery showing in mid-April. Once

determined, the date for the virtual awards ceremony will also be provided to teachers.

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 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibited slavery.

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

1868—The 14th 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 15th 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.

1876—The Federal government reached a compromise with southern states to stop enforcing the 14th and 15th amendments by the use of military rule.

- Afterward, states adopted what are known as Jim Crow laws. These discriminatory laws included various voting suppression practices such as poll taxes and literacy tests—along with intimidation and outright violence—to prevent African Americans from exercising their right to vote.

1964—The 24th 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 15th Amendment by expressly eliminating state-imposed voting barriers such as literacy tests and poll taxes.

- Afterward, in the 2000s, many states engaged in redistricting that gave a political advantage to one political party at the expense of another. Additionally, states created confusing and restrictive voter ID laws.

2013—The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that critical sections of the 1965 Voting Rights Act were unconstitutional. This ruling significantly limited the ability to enforce the purpose of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.



PROMPT: Submit a piece that expresses your understanding of the 14th Amendment, the 1965 Voting Rights Act, and your duty to vote.



**2021 MODERN MASTERS OF AMERICA FINE ART
PIECE DESCRIPTION AND STUDENT RELEASE FORM**

<i>NAME OF ARTIST:</i>	
<i>STUDENT EMAIL:</i>	
<i>STUDENT CELL #:</i>	
<i>SCHOOL:</i>	
<i>TEACHER:</i>	
<i>TITLE OF ARTWORK:</i>	
<i>MEDIUM:</i>	
<i>Brief description of how the piece addresses the curriculum:</i>	
<i>Artist statement of 1 paragraph that tells us something interesting about the artist, and relates the artist's thoughts behind the artwork:</i>	
<i>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</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.

Date: _____,
2021

Student Signature