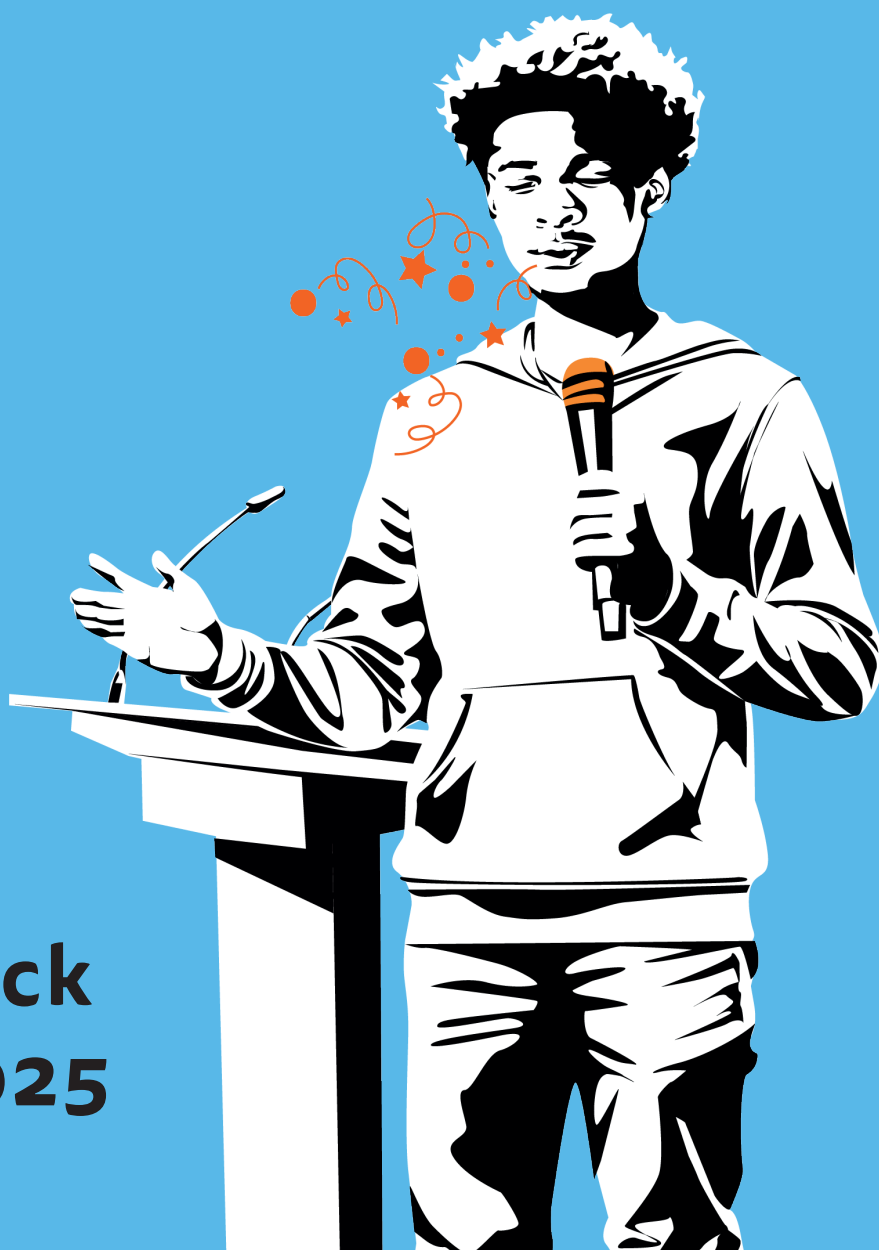




STUDENT VOICES



**Entry pack
2024/2025**

It's time to tell us your story.

Student Voices is where you have your say on the big issues of our time. We are inviting students from The Day member schools across the globe and BrainWaves research partner schools or colleges to submit opinion articles or videos now for the chance to become a published writer or storyteller.

Busy right now?

Student Voices is open year round, so you can submit your pieces at any time. We will publish a maximum of one new article or video per day, with prizes for the best submission of the week.

At the end of the school year (*July 2025*) all published submissions will be entered into our annual **Global Young Journalist Awards**. There will be prizes available for winners, as well as the chance to attend a live awards event.



Submit your articles or videos to editorial@theday.co.uk
alongside your completed submission form.

How to enter

Step 1: Choose your topic!

Your piece can be on any topic. But in the best pieces, you can always feel the passion of the author. So think about what your interests are! What view or story do you not think is being heard? Which politician or media figure do you vehemently disagree with? How do you think life will change in the future? What brings joy to your life — and what makes it difficult?

In the past, we have published student articles on all sorts of topics: from AI and social media to mental health, politics, climate and equality.

If you need a bit of inspiration, you can read some of the winning submissions from previous awards [here](#).

Step 2: Choose your format

- You can either write your piece or make a video.
- Written articles must be between 250 and 500 words long.
- Videos should be between one and two minutes.

Step 3: Submit your entry

Submissions should be emailed to editorial@theday.co.uk alongside a completed submission form. Make sure you include the correct submission form for your age. If you are submitting a video, please send us a link to an unlisted YouTube video.

If you submit any pictures to accompany a written article, you must provide us with copyright information (so, please tell us who took the photos and if they are happy for us to use them!).



Rules and guidelines

All entries should be in English and should be in written or video format. They should be factual and created by the named student. You can submit more than once over the year, but individual students cannot have more than two pieces published per month. Submissions should not already be published elsewhere (an internal school publication, such as a school newspaper, is acceptable). No offensive or foul language, or otherwise inappropriate content, is allowed. Students must be from The Day member schools or institutions.

Please do not submit entries written by Artificial Intelligence.

What happens next?

Your submission will be reviewed by our editorial team. We will aim to get back to you as soon as possible. We'll let you know if we decide to publish your submission, or if it needs some more work or edits before publication. If we decide not to publish, we will send you some advice and feedback.

We will publish a maximum of one piece per day. On your submission form, you can let us know if you want us to publish your full name, just your first name or no name.

What are we looking for?

Your submission will be reviewed on the following criteria.

How current is the topic?

Your piece will stand out if it is based on current world events or news. You can tell stories that apply to you or where you live — but it needs to be something you can observe and learn from, and be newsworthy.

How factually true is the story?

Your entry needs to aim for factual truth, so it can't be fictional. Any of your own research or interviews is greatly encouraged. Poems, fictional stories and abstract paintings don't fit the brief for this one.

How well does it communicate?

Your entry needs to communicate clearly, powerfully and quickly. Think about where journalism is consumed. If someone read, watched or listened to your entry on a commute or coffee break, would they understand it in that time?

How memorable is it?

Think about the last news article you read that really stayed with you. How did it make you feel? Good journalism is sticky. Sometimes it is beautiful. Make us remember it tomorrow.

Does it contain an opinion?.

We want to hear what YOU think. Your piece must contain an opinion. So: you must make an argument, with points and evidence to back it up.

Please let us know if you have special educational needs or personal circumstances we should take into account.

Written article

The first sentence of a well-written article should be snappy and grab the reader's attention, making them want to read on. Then, you need to sum up what the story is about. Usually this covers the five W's — **who, what, when, where, why**.

Grammar and punctuation are important. Also, keep sentences short and don't waste words. Make sure you provide sources for your facts.

So, don't say

"More and more children use social media".

Instead, try

"A survey in Wales found that 43% of seven and eight-year-olds have a smartphone".

First sentence spotlights:

“ Teenagers don't matter when it comes to politics, everyone knows that! But is that necessarily the truth? ”

Harrison, GYJA winner 2024

“ Writing this is excruciating. I am taken back to November 2023, when my cheeks looked like swollen turnips with hardly any skin visible underneath. ”

Neerja, GYJA winner 2024

“ In the shadows of our world, countless illnesses and infections lurk without being detected. ”

Arya, GYJA winner 2023

“ People used to worry about getting their wallets stolen, but in today's society you need to worry about getting your FACE stolen. ”

Finnegan, GYJA winner 2024

“ If you are a girl, prepare yourself for judgement. Mark my words. ”

Kayana, GYJA runner up 2024

“ When was the last time you heard someone use 'woke' for anything but an insult? ”

Martha, GYJA runner up 2023

Videos

Journalistic videos need to show something new, noteworthy, unusual or timely. The narrator or presenter needs to match the words with the pictures.

How to use statistics in your writing

Statistics can be a powerful addition to any article. But here are some quick do's and don'ts:

DO

Use statistics!

Statistics can reinforce the point you are making. For example, why just say: "Children are addicted to their phones". You could add: "Children are addicted to their phones. The average teenager spends eight and a half hours on screens every day."

Say where the statistic comes from!

The reader needs to know where the statistic comes from — was it a survey carried out by a polling company for example? Or is it data from a census? Is it from a source with a bias?

And who the statistic relates to!

Don't say: "There are 3.5 million people living with a rare disease." Do say: "There are 3.5 million people living with a rare disease in the UK, according to the 2021 UK Rare Diseases Framework." Otherwise, people might think there are only 3.5m people in the whole world with a rare disease!

Find statistics that are relevant to where you live!

Many of the statistics we find online come from American sources and are about American people. That's ok sometimes! But life in America will not always be the same as life in other places. Try to find statistics from a place that is relevant to your article.

Link to your source!

Add a link to the source of your statistics in a footnote. This will help readers check out the statistics for themselves and do extra research.

Do your own research!

Can you carry out your own survey for your article? That would be really impressive.

DON'T

Use statistics in a misleading way

For example, saying "Most children like brussel sprouts," is very different to saying "52% of French children aged 12 to 15 will eat brussel sprouts if they are covered in chocolate."

Use statistics just from social media

You need to know where your statistic came from. It's ok if you spotted it on social media first, but try to find the original source.

Use statistics that seem obviously wrong

Take a moment to think about the statistic you are using. Does it seem realistic? For example, even though we know China is a big country, it should ring alarm bells if you have written "90% of all people are Chinese".

Use very old statistics

For example, a statistic on children's screentime from the 1990s will be largely irrelevant today. Try to find up-to-date data.

Use statistics without any details or context

You should always try to include the source of your statistic and who and where it relates to. This can be in a footnote.





So what is happening to GYJA, The Day's yearly journalism awards?



GYJA is not going away, but how you enter is changing.

This year, any piece published as part of Student Voices will become an entry to the 2025 Global Young Journalism Awards.

To take part this year, your school or educational institution must be a member of The Day.

We will be announcing our winners at the end of the 2024/25 school year!

Winners will receive:



A certificate



A prize



The chance to attend a live awards event

**GOOD
LUCK!**

**We can't wait to see
what you come up with!**



Not a member of The Day? Find out how your school can sign-up at theday.co.uk/about-us/

Student Voices

2024/25 Consent Form

(Under 16s)



Please complete this form and email it to editorial@theday.co.uk alongside your submission.

Students full name:

Submission title:

Age:

Is there anything you want to tell us?

School:

Teacher/parent/guardian email address:

School postcode:

As parent/guardian,

hereby grants The Day News & Media permission to use photographs, videos, written articles, graphics or illustrations provided by my child as part of their submission to Student Voices and the Global Young Journalist Awards.

I also grant permission for The Day to publish this content for any lawful purpose, including, but not limited to, The Day's website, social media accounts, promotional materials, press releases, advertising, either digital or in print, in perpetuity.

In addition, should my child win one of the categories at the Global Young Journalist Awards, I give permission for any event sponsors to publish photographs, videos, written articles, graphics or illustrations provided by my child for their entry to that category, on any of their marketing channels, in perpetuity.

By signing and dating this document, I waive any rights of privacy or compensation associated with the use of the content for the commercial purposes outlined above.

The child's school will be referenced in publication.

In addition, I consent to The Day publishing my child's:

☐ First name ☐ Full name ☐ School name

Print child's full name

Print parent/guardian full name

Parent/guardian signature Date

Student Voices

2024/25 Consent Form

(16 and over)



Please complete this form and email it to editorial@theday.co.uk alongside your submission.

Full name:

Submission title:

Age:

School:

School postcode:

Is there anything you want to tell us?

I,

hereby grant The Day News & Media permission to use photographs, videos, written articles, graphics or illustrations provided part of my submission to Student Voices and the Global Young Journalist Awards.

I also grant permission for The Day to publish this content for any lawful purpose, including, but not limited to, The Day's website, social media accounts, promotional materials, press releases, advertising, either digital or in print, in perpetuity.

In addition, should I win one of the categories at the Global Young Journalist Awards, I give permission for any event sponsors to publish photographs, videos, written articles, graphics or illustrations provided for my entry, on any of their marketing channels, in perpetuity.

By signing and dating this document, I waive any rights of privacy or compensation associated with the use of the content for the commercial purposes outlined above.

The child's school will be referenced in publication.

In addition, I consent to The Day publishing my:

☐ First name ☐ Full name ☐ School name

Entrant full name

Entrant signature Date

☐ Would you be interested in joining our Student Voices WhatsApp community?