



# STUDENT VOICES



**Entry pack  
2025/2026**

# How to share your views



Do you feel very strongly about an issue in the news?

Do you want to share your views and ideas with a wider audience than just your friends and school?

The Day provides an objective background to the issues affecting us all, and we guide you towards reflecting, in an informed way, on these issues.

Submit your opinion articles and videos to us for the chance to reach thousands of people around the world — and make a real difference.

## Everything you need to know before submitting your Student Voices entry

### Tell us what you think — and why!

At the end of the school year (July 2026) all published submissions will be entered into our new annual **Student Voices Young Journalist Awards**. The deadline for entry in the 2026 awards is 17 May, and we will choose five winners who will each receive a £100 (or equivalent) prize/voucher.

Remember, you will have more chance of success and feedback (less competition) if you submit your Student Voices articles earlier in the academic year **i.e. from now!**



Submit your articles or videos to [studentvoices@theday.co.uk](mailto:studentvoices@theday.co.uk) alongside your completed submission form.

# How to enter

Think of an issue that really interests, excites or bothers you: ideally it will be something in the news, and probably something featured in one of our news stories or daily videos. The resources at the end of both are carefully designed to get you thinking.

## Choose your format

Will you send an article or will you submit a video? The choice is yours, but make sure you read our guidelines below carefully.

Then submit your entry: Email it to [studentvoices@theday.co.uk](mailto:studentvoices@theday.co.uk). All entries must include a [completed submission and consent form](#) filled in by a parent or guardian if you are under 16.

Your submission will be reviewed by our editorial team and we will aim to get back to you as soon as possible to let you know if we have chosen it for publication.

Remember, for your submission to be considered, *it must comply with our guidelines*:

## The Day Student Voices submission guidelines

You need to submit a 250-to-500-word article as a Word or Google doc, or a one-to-two-minute video. Please make sure you give us permission to open the files and that your entry is not confined to a school intranet. Longer articles or videos will not be accepted.

Your piece will stand out if it describes your views on current world events or news, especially if you take a novel, original and well-informed topic and stand (see the **Six steps to success** on the next page).

It must be based on fact and any quotations need to be credited to their source (eg “according to an article on bats in the 23 June 2025 issue of *New Scientist*”). Interviewing people is welcome, and these people should be credited.

## 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.*

# Six steps to success

- 1. Know your audience:** Before you write or speak a single word, think about the readers of *The Day*. What issues do they care about and what language do our writers use? This should guide your choice of topic and your tone.
- 2. Hook them immediately:** Grab attention right away with a surprising statistic, a relatable personal story, or a powerful question that makes people want to keep reading or watching.
- 3. State your opinion clearly:** Your main point should be obvious from the first paragraph of an article or from the start of a video, so your audience knows exactly what you believe.
- 4. Back it up with facts:** Your opinion is only as strong as your evidence. Use real-world examples, credible quotations, or simple statistics to show why your claims are correct. See the guide to using stats on our website.
- 5. Acknowledge opposing views:** A great opinion piece shows that you have thought deeply about a topic. Mention a counter-argument and then explain why your position is stronger.
- 6. End with a powerful punch:** Leave your readers with a memorable final thought, a challenging question, or a simple call to action that gets them thinking after they have finished reading your article or seen your video.



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

# Student Voices

## 2025/26 Consent Form

(Under 16s)



Please complete this form and email it to [studentvoices@theday.co.uk](mailto:studentvoices@theday.co.uk) alongside your submission.

Students full name: .....

Submission title: .....

Age: .....

School: .....

Is there anything you want to tell us?

School postcode: .....

Teacher/parent/guardian email address: .....

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 the Student Voices 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 Student Voices 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 .....

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Entrant signature ..... Date .....

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