

# STUDENTS

## 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. Remember there are three levels of judging. You only need to submit your work to your school contact staff member. They will then send the work to their local OSSTF/FEESO office where the second level of judging occurs. If you are a district winner, your work will then be sent, by the district personnel, for the final level of judging at the provincial level.

## 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. The role that your supporting staff member has taken in your work is integral to the contest.

## 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, USB keys or 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. Without this submission your work will not be considered.

A completed entry form signed by your OSSTF/FEESO sponsor (teacher or education worker member at your school) must accompany every entry or your entry could be disqualified.

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