The Seventh Annual New York Times Summer Reading Contest



Children visiting the Rockingham County Library bookmobile in North Carolina in 1955. Courtesy of the State Library of North Carolina

Here's how the contest works, in a nutshell:

Every Friday from June 17 to Aug. 19 we'll pose the same question: What interested you most in The Times this week? Why?

Anyone 13 to 19 years old from anywhere in the world can post an answer any week until Friday, Aug. 26, and contestants can choose from any Times article, essay, video, interactive or photograph published in 2016, on any topic they like.

Every Tuesday starting July 5 we will announce winners from a previous week and <u>publish their writing on the blog</u>.

Q. What kinds of responses are you looking for?

A. We don't care what you choose or whether you loved or hated it; what we care about is what you have to say about why you picked it. If you don't believe us, scroll through six years worth of winners.

They have written on serious topics like gender, race and identity and space exploration but they have also written on <u>Disney shows</u> and <u>Jon Stewart withdrawal</u>.

Whatever the topic, you'll see that the best pieces year after year make both personal connections to the news and go beyond the personal to discuss broader questions and ideas that an issue raises.

So whether you were moved by an <u>article</u>, enlightened by an <u>essay</u>, bowled over by a <u>photo</u>, irked by an <u>editorial</u> or inspired by a <u>feature</u>, find something in The Times that genuinely interests you and tell us why, as honestly and originally as you can.





Q. What are the rules?

A.— We will post the same <u>Student Opinion</u> question every Friday, starting June 17. Each will ask, "What interested you most in The Times this week? Why?" That is where you should post your picks (and reasons) any time until the next Friday. Then we will close that post to comments and open a new one with the same question. That means that students can write in any day until Friday, Aug. 26, at 7 a.m. Eastern when the contest ends.

As soon as the contest starts, we will keep an up-to-date link to that week's question at the top of this page.

- You can choose from anything published in the print paper or on <u>NYTimes.com</u> in 2016, including <u>videos</u>, <u>graphics</u>, <u>slide</u> shows and podcasts.
- Feel free to participate every week, but we allow only *one* submission per person per week.
- The contest is open to teenagers only anyone from 13 to 19 years old from anywhere in the world.
- Our commenting system allows responses up to 1,500 characters, which is somewhere between 250 and 300 words.
- Make sure to provide us with the full URL or headline (for example, <u>"To Fall in Love With Anyone, Do This,"</u> or http://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/11/fashion/modern-love-to-fall-in-love-with-anyone-do-this.html).

Q. Who will be judging my work?

A. Learning Network and New York Times staff.

Q. When should I check to see whether my submission won?

A. Every Tuesday from July 5 to Sept. 6, we will publish a previous week's winner or winners in a separate post. We will also celebrate the winners on Twitter and Facebook.

O. How do I participate in this contest if I don't have a digital subscription?

A. NYTimes.com has a <u>digital subscription system</u> in which readers have free access to 10 articles each month. If you exceed that limit, you will be asked to become a digital subscriber.

One thing you should know, however, is that The Learning Network and all its posts, as well as all Times articles linked from them, <u>are accessible without a digital subscription</u>. That means that if you use any of the articles we have linked to on this blog for summer reading, they will not count as part of the 10-article limit. And you can use anything published in 2016.

The NYT Now app for iPhones is also free and offers daily articles and multimedia.

Q. How do I prove to my teacher that I participated?

A. When you comment, make sure to check the box that asks you if you would like to be emailed when your comment is published. If you do so, the system will send you a link to your comment, which you can use to show your teacher, your parents, your friends or anyone else you'd like to impress.

More questions? Post them here, to the contest announcement on the blog, and we'll answer you there.

