



On-site Drawing

2026-2027
Qual ♦ Dist ♦ State

GRADES: 6, 7, 8 | ENTRIES: 3 PER SECTION | TIME: 45 MIN

SECTIONS. Grades 6, 7, and 8 compete separately.

ENTRIES. As many as **THREE** students from each section may be entered in the On-site Drawing District Contest from each school.

ADVANCING TO STATE. First and second place winners from each grade will advance to State. Third place winners will be alternates.

NATURE OF THE CONTEST. Observing a still life display consisting of 4 to 7 objects, contestants produce a rendering on regular drawing paper (standard sizes are 14" × 17" or 12" × 18") using any drawing media that does not require water, oil, or a paint brush. Contestants have 45 minutes at the contest site to produce their freehand work of art to be judged by qualified artists/teachers and displayed in an art show during the remainder of the tournament day. Contestants must bring all drawing media they intend to use. Any combination of approved media may be used, provided no medium requires water, oil, or a paint brush. Watercolor markers are permitted. Acceptable media include, but are not limited to, pencil, charcoal, Craypas, pastels, and ink pens that do not require a separate bottle of ink. No mechanical drawing media will be allowed (no rulers, protractors, etc.). The drawing paper is supplied by the host school. Contestants receive only one piece of paper. A second sheet may be provided only if the first sheet becomes unusable. The displayed objects may be any combination of shapes and sizes. The display must be set up by someone other than an art teacher from a contestant's school, preferably an impartial judge. The drawing should be a **composition of all elements in the still life display** that are visible to the students from their viewing points in the room. Composition implies combined elements; however, a larger emphasis in the rendering may be given by the artist to one or two of those composition elements as artistic preference.

WHAT HAPPENS IN THE CONTEST. The contest director will announce the time and place that contestants and one adult should report for receiving evaluations and awards. (Substitutes taking the place of absent

registered contestants should notify the contest director know as they enter the room to save time in roll call.) Blank drawing paper shall be placed at the contest tables before contestants are seated. Contestants may choose any available sheet. During roll call, each contestant shall receive a Contestant ID label and shall affix it to the back of the selected sheet of drawing paper. The still life display will be covered, and contestants will be seated in such a way that each will have a view of the display. When the contest director lifts the cover from the display, contestants will draw on the side of the paper opposite the ID label. Contestants will have 45 minutes to draw. The contest director **should** give a 10-minute warning before time has expired. When time has expired, contestants will exit the room, leaving their drawings in the same position and place that they were as they finished their work. Contestants should take all of their drawing supplies with them when they exit. Contest Directors do not need to be in the contest room during judging, but should return the last 30 minutes to post results on the contest roster. Contest Directors are encouraged to provide the judges with a cell phone number to facilitate communication regarding questions during judging or to notify the Contest Director upon completion of judging.

JUDGING THE DRAWINGS. The drawings are judged on the basis of these elements:

- a. Creativity / Originality – What makes this artwork different from others?
- b. Workmanship – What degree of quality is found for the type of media and the technique used?
- c. Interest – What makes this still life drawing interesting?
- d. Other Criteria – What other aspects add to this work's appeal?

Judges should leave the evaluation with the displayed drawing. Judges should remain for the Viewing/Awards Period in order to discuss with contestants the rationale for rankings. The Contest Director can attach award tags (1st, 2nd, 3rd) with the appropriate art work before displaying in the art show.

JUDGING METHODS. One judging method involves using a panel of three judges, with each judge assigned

as the “lead judge” for one of the grades. The lead judge reviews all drawings for their assigned grade, provides written comments, and selects entries that are in the top 10 without determining the final ranking. This initial review should take about an hour. Once all lead judges have made their selections, the panel meets to discuss and finalize the exact rankings for each grade. The additional judges should provide more comments, especially to the top 10.

Alternatively, you can have three judges in each grade, where all judges provide comments to all drawings. The group then works together to assign the final ranks.

VIEWING/AWARDS PERIOD. Contestants and adults may assemble at a designated time and place to receive awards. Judges and/or the Contest Director should comment on the selection of the top ranked art works. In addition to 1st through 6th place awards, honorable mention awards may be presented as judges see fit to up to 4 students. Instructions for displaying top artwork will come from the meet director.

PREPARATION FOR CONTEST. Read and follow all instructions provided in the “Rules for ALL Participants” section of the *PSIA Academic Handbook*. Observe and practice with students all rules and procedures delineated in the “Instructions to the Contestant” and in the “Checklist for Contest Directors.” Preparation for the On-Site Drawing Contest should include instruction in quick sketching and the use of a variety of media.

PERSONNEL NEEDED FOR CONTEST.

1. **Contest Director.** May be a knowledgeable coach of contestants in the contest.
2. **Assistant Directors.** Two knowledgeable coaches from different schools other than director’s. One Assistant Director may serve as the Hall Monitor during the contest.
3. **Judges.** An odd number of judges who know none of the students in the contest. Recommendation: One judge for each grade level, then judges get together to make the final decisions on the top 10 drawings at each grade level. It is also recommended that judges set up the display. Depending on the number of students competing, a separate room for each grade level is best.

Shall and Must List

Contestants **must not** use one of the prohibited drawing media or mechanical devices.

Result: Contest Director should notice that a contestant has a prohibited drawing media and have the contestant remove that media. If the contestant uses a prohibited drawing media (with or without the notification by the Contest Director), the contestant is disqualified.