

"Jamaica's Young Voices: SDGs Creative Expression Competition for art and creative writing"

Competition Guidelines

Competition Areas

Track One: VNR Cover Design Challenge

Students create original artwork to serve as the cover for Jamaica's third Voluntary National Review, visually representing Jamaica's sustainable development story and progress towards achieving the SDGs. It will capture the students' vision of Jamaica beyond 2030.

Design original artwork that tells Jamaica's sustainable development story. Think about:

- What makes Jamaica special and unique?
- How is Jamaica working towards a better future?
- What progress have we made on issues like education, environment, health, and community development?
- What are your hopes for Jamaica's future?

Track Two: Jamaica 2030+ Vision Stories

Students craft written narratives envisioning their ideal Jamaica beyond 2030, exploring how the country could achieve and surpass the SDGs through realistic possibilities and innovative solutions.

Create a written story that imagines what Jamaica could look like beyond 2030 when we achieve (and gone beyond) the SDGs. Your story should explore one or more of these themes:

- **Environmental Sustainability and Climate Resilience:** How Jamaica protects its beautiful environment and adapts to climate change
- **Economic Growth and Innovation:** How Jamaica creates jobs and opportunities for everyone
- **Social Inclusion and Community Development:** How all Jamaicans are included and communities thrive
- **Governance and Institutional Strengthening:** How Jamaica is well governed and institutions serve the people
- **Education and Youth Empowerment:** How young Jamaicans are educated and empowered to lead
- **Health and Well-Being for All:** How all Jamaicans live healthy, fulfilling lives.

Eligibility and Assessments

Any student of a school that is registered by the Ministry of Education, Skills, Youth and Information (MoESYI)

Grade Division:

- Primary Division (Grades 4–6): Focus on accessible creative expression with clear connections to SDG concepts, with expectations appropriate for their development stage and with teacher guidance.
- Lower Secondary Division (Grades 7–9): Demonstrate growing analytical skills through community-connected creative work.
- Upper Secondary Division (Grades 10–13): Expected to demonstrate sophisticated understanding through detailed research and critical analysis.

A panel comprising representatives from the Planning Institute of Jamaica, MoESYI, and artistic institutions will evaluate submissions. National-level evaluation will focus on creativity, SDG understanding, Jamaican context connection, and communication effectiveness.

Winners will be announced in February 2026.

What Will Judges Look For?

All Tracks:

- Creativity and Originality: Fresh, innovative ideas that stand out
- SDG Understanding: Clear connections to sustainable development concepts
- Jamaican Connection: Strong reflection of Jamaican identity, culture, and context
- Communication Effectiveness: Clear expression of ideas appropriate for your division
- Personal Expression: Authentic voice and perspective.

Track One Specific:

- Visual impact and professional appearance suitable for publication
- Effective use of symbols, colours, and imagery to tell Jamaica's story.

Track Two Specific:

- Compelling storytelling with well-developed thoughts and ideas
- Realistic yet inspirational vision for Jamaica's future
- Proper research and understanding of current challenges and opportunities.

Contest Rules

- Posters must be 11" x 17"
- Students can use digital design tools, acrylics, crayons, pencil, coloured pencil, charcoal, pastels, magic markers, water colours and ink

- All artwork **must** be original and reflect the theme. Students will be disqualified for plagiarism (passing off the work/idea of another person as their own).
- Entries will become the property of the PIOJ and entrants will be required to relinquish all copyrights to the PIOJ
- Posters exceeding or going below the requested dimension will be disqualified.
- The PIOJ reserves the right to disqualify any poster that does not meet the requirement specified
- The decision of the judging panel is final.

Submission Requirements

For Track One (Cover Design):

- Submit original artwork in digital format (high resolution scan or digital creation)
- Accepted formats: JPEG, PNG (not transparent) in the maximum file size (no compression)
- Include a brief written explanation (100–300 words) describing your design and how it represents Jamaica’s SDG journey
- Artwork should be suitable for a professional publication cover.

For Track Two (Vision Stories)

- Primary Division: 300–600 words
- Lower Secondary Division: 600–1,000 words
- Upper Secondary Division: 1,000–1,500 words
- Submit in PDF format
- Stories should be original, creative, and demonstrates understanding of SDG themes
- Include a brief author biography (50 words max)

Important Dates

- September – October 2025: Registration period
- December 19, 2025: Submission deadline
- February 2026 — Winners announced

Prizes and Recognition

Prizes will be awarded in each division for both tracks, including educational technology, gift baskets, and book vouchers. Trophies will be awarded to winning schools as well as national and global recognition in the official publication, and teachers will be awarded gift baskets.

How to Enter

1. Download school registration form
2. Complete form, which must include students' names and be signed by the Principal
3. Email completed registration form to sdgsjamaica@pioj.gov.jm

You will be acknowledged and given further instructions.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For additional information, contact:
Sustainable Development Goals Secretariat,
Planning Institute of Jamaica
Email: sdgsjamaica@pioj.gov.jm;
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