

Digital Illustration



ENTRIES SUBMITTED THAT DO NOT FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS PROMPT WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.

ONLY STUDENTS WHO PLACED IN THIS REGIONAL CONTEST CAN ENTER. NO SUBSTITUTIONS ALLOWED.

THE ASSIGNMENT

The editor of your publication would like you to illustrate a feature story that a fellow staff member is writing. Digital illustration entries should help to **describe the issue or topic being covered** in the article. Sometimes digital illustrations are used by designers when a traditional photo is difficult to execute or cannot capture the main idea of the story. The designer's opinion should not be evident in the illustration.

Digital Illustration Assignment: Create an illustration for an upcoming article about how students find joy, peace and contentment in a busy world. Tentative headline is "Finding your joy."

Here is a description of the article topic:

Sometimes, the best parts of life are the small, everyday moments that make us smile. Whether it's a quiet moment with a friend, a peaceful afternoon walk, or a small act of kindness, the article focuses on the little things that bring us happiness. It hopes to answer the question about how students find joy in a busy world.

Designers can use photography techniques, software manipulation, digital illustration and/or typography to create an artful image that communicates the story topic. Please be sure that if the illustration utilizes a photographic image, that the image is manipulated in a way that makes the image obviously fake to any reasonable reader. **The designer should not use AI to generate the illustration.**

SUBMISSION

A Google account is required to submit the entry.

SPECIFICATIONS

The image must be uploaded to the KSPA online submission system according to these specifications:

- The illustration should be saved as a JPG of 10 MB or less (screenshot/PNG file will also be accepted, but JPG preferred)
- **The illustration should be 6 inches wide and 4 inches tall (horizontal). The page holding the illustration should be letter**

DESCRIPTION

You are a member of Sunflower High School's publication staff. Your editor has asked you to create a digital illustration.

SCHOOL INFO

Name: Sunflower High School
Location: Clinton, Kansas
Mascot: Mighty Buffalo
Enrollment: 800 (grades 9-12)
School colors: yellow and blue
Yearbook: The Sunflower
Newspaper: Sunflower News

Contest Info

This is a VISUAL category for the KSPA State Contest.

Students must not request help or advice from any person other than the KSPA staff at staff@kspaonline.org.

All work must be solely that of the contestant.

SUBMIT YOUR WORK

Deadline is Thursday, April 3 at 5 p.m.

- **sized: 8.5 inches x 11 inches (vertical).**
- Use of AI to create the content is not allowed.
- When you submit your file, you will provide your name and school name on the submission form. No caption or explanation is required.
- The image must be uploaded by **Thursday, April 3 at 5 p.m.**



Digital Illustration 2025 State Judging Rubric

Judging Criteria for Digital Illustration

Ratings at a glance	Criteria	Comments <i>(judges are encouraged to leave additional comments here but are not required to for all lines)</i>
Select rating. ▾	CONTENT: The elements of the illustration have a strong connection to the story mentioned in the prompt. The illustration communicates effectively with the audience. Careful thought has been given to the content to signal to the reader what the story is about.	
Select rating. ▾	TYPOGRAPHY: Fonts, if included in the design, are readable, relate to content of the story and are appropriate in size and weight.	
Select rating. ▾	OVERALL DESIGN: Designer utilizes essential graphic design techniques to create a professional and engaging design: • Dominant element draws reader into illustration • White space is used effectively to separate	

	- items to ensure readability - Alignment of text is consistent - Contrast between the size of elements helps reader navigate through the illustration easily - Clear, organized and cohesive presentation	
Select rating. ▾	TECHNICAL: The technical use of software shows advanced skills and makes the effect on the reader even more dramatic. The designer took time to create a polished, professional looking illustration	
Select rating. ▾	SIZE SPECIFICATIONS: The illustration conforms to the specific size and shape requirements provided in the prompt.	
Select rating. ▾	COLOR: The colors for this illustration are well suited for the content of the story and with the audience and current trends in mind.	
Select rating. ▾	EDITING: The text in the illustration has been well written and closely edited for grammar, punctuation and capitalization.	