

2021 Storyfest Award

Official Rules

NO ENTRY FEE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN.

VOID WHERE PROHIBITED.

- 1. Description.** The George Washington University ("University") through Planet Forward (a project within the University's School of Media and Public Affairs) offers the 2021 Storyfest Award (the "Award") as an opportunity for current undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in an accredited university or college.
- 2. Eligibility.** The Award is open to any person who is (i) eighteen (18) years of age or older at the time of participation, and (ii) currently enrolled in an accredited undergraduate or graduate university or college program ("Entrants"). Entrants may compete either as individuals or in collaboration with one (1) additional person. The Award is void where prohibited or otherwise restricted by law, rule, or regulation. All applicable United States federal, state, and local laws and regulations apply to this Award and any Prize disbursement, including without limitation federal immigration or sanctions laws. By participating, Entrants agree to be bound by these Official Rules.
- 3. How to Enter and Qualify.** To enter and qualify for the Award, Entrants must complete and submit (i) an online Award entry form and (ii) produce an original story about inventions and/or innovations that can move the planet forward (the "Story"). The Story should:
 - a) fit into any of the following award categories:
 - i. *Best Science Essay:* Awarded to Entrants whose Story analyzes a scientific issue/problem and develops a solution based on factual information and research.
 - ii. *Most Compelling Character:* Awarded to Entrants that create a Story featuring the most compelling main character (or characters).
 - iii. *Most Creativity in the Art of Environmental Storytelling:* Awarded to Entrants whose Story most creatively tells an environmental narrative using ingenious media formats or storytelling techniques.

- iv. *Best Use of Science or Data:* Awarded to Entrants whose Story best exemplifies explanatory storytelling through either scientific innovation or quantitative data.
 - v. *Best Scalable Innovation:* Awarded to Entrants whose Story best features a scalable and inspiring innovation that has the greatest chance to change the world within the next five (5) years.
 - vi. *Fan Favorite:* All Entrants will be eligible for the "Fan Favorite Award." The "Fan Favorite Award" will be selected via PlanetForward.org website voting, as advertised on social media such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Voting for the "Fan Favorite Award" shall end on Thursday, April 8, 2021, at 5:00 PM EDT. In the event the Entrant selected by majority vote was also selected as the Winner for another award category, the "Fan Favorite Award" shall be given to the Entrant with the next highest vote total that was not otherwise selected as a Winner for another award category.
- b) be presented in one (1) or more mediums that best convey the Story including:
- i. *Written:* All written submissions should be six hundred to one thousand (600-1,000) words and include a minimum of one (1) image, where the image is preferably taken by the Entrant, and feature interviews with two to three (2-3) sources.
 - ii. *Video:* All video submissions should be two to four (2-4) minutes in length with HD-quality audio and visual, and include one (1) written paragraph of fifty to two hundred (50-200) words describing the video without transcription. All video submissions must be uploaded to Vimeo or YouTube. If the entry is a documentary or a longer podcast, a trailer must be submitted that satisfies the run time requirement.
 - iii. *Photo Essay:* All photo essay submissions must be authored by the Entrant and should include (i) ten to fifteen (10-15) photographs and (ii) a short article. All photograph submissions should utilize digital images with a minimum of one hundred and fifty (150) dots per inch (dpi) and feature detailed captions, not to exceed two hundred (200) words for each photograph. The accompanying written article should be two hundred to six hundred (200-600) words and should summarize the photo essay submission.

- iv. *Multimedia*: All multimedia submissions should include an article *and* (i) photographs or a slideshow, or (ii) a video or podcast. All written submissions should be six hundred to one thousand (600-1,000) words. All photograph submissions, where the images are preferably taken by the Entrant, should utilize digital images with a minimum of one hundred and fifty (150) dots per inch (dpi) and feature captions, not to exceed two hundred (200) words for each photograph. All video submissions should be two to four (2-4) minutes in length with HD-quality audio and visual, and be uploaded to Vimeo or YouTube. All podcast submissions should be three to fifteen (3-15) minutes in length with HD-quality audio, and must be uploaded to SoundCloud. If a multimedia submission is prepared using Adobe Spark or similar platform, an embed code and a written summary of one hundred to two hundred (100-200) words must be provided.

All Story submissions must be original works produced by the Entrants that do not infringe the ownership rights of any other person or entity. All Story submissions must have either primary source links in the Story text or annotations that identify information sources. Any Entrants with Story submissions made in any prior Award competitions, or that are Planet Forward student staff members, will be ineligible for Prize consideration. All data, facts, and claims must be cited through reliable sources in order to be eligible for the Award and Prize.

Entrants are allowed a maximum of three (3) Story submissions. The period to submit a Story for the Award begins on Monday, June 1, 2020, at 12:00 AM EDT and ends Friday, March 26, 2021, at 11:59 PM EDT ("Submission Period"). Only Story submissions posted during the Submission Period will be considered for the Award.

4. Selection of Winners. University staff (the "Selectors") will award a Prize for each Award category (the "Winners"). Winner selection will ultimately be at the University's sole discretion and based on the following storytelling criteria:

- a) Creativity and effectiveness of chosen format/s;
- b) Excellence in written/verbal communication and/or technical and production skill;
- c) Factual accuracy, including attribution of facts, data and quotes, and superior research that considers different perspectives; and
- d) Overall potential impact of the featured idea.

There will be six (6) Winners from among the Entrants who compete for the Award. A Winner shall be selected for each of the categories noted in Section 3.

- 5. Prize.** The Winners will receive the Award and a cash prize of five hundred dollars (\$500 (the "Prize").

For Winners that are part of a team, the entire team will be recognized in any University Award presentation (e.g., certificate or plaque); however, only one (1) Prize will be available for the entire team. For the avoidance of doubt, the Winners from a team must designate only one (1) team member to receive the entire Prize. In no instances shall a cash equivalent be provided to Winners from a team in lieu of the Prize or in exchange for the Prize's cash value.

All federal, state, local, and other taxes associated with the acceptance and use of the Prize are the sole responsibility of the Winners. There are no Prize substitutions or options available. The Winners shall not be permitted to replace the Prize with another item or cash equivalent. The Prize is not transferable. If the Prize becomes unavailable, the University reserves the right, exercisable at any time and in its sole discretion, to either substitute a prize of comparable value or not award any prize to the Winners. All Prizes are at the University's sole discretion.

- 6. Winner Notification.** The Winners will be notified at the Planet Forward Summit hosted online on Friday, April 9, 2021.

Additionally, if a potential Winner is found to be ineligible or if the potential Winner does not comply with these Official Rules, such potential Winner will be disqualified and, at the University's discretion, an applicable runner-up will be notified. All Entrants agree to comply fully with each provision in these Official Rules. Any Entrants attempting to defraud or in any way tamper with this Award, and any Entrants who do not comply with these Official Rules, will be ineligible for the Prize. If during the Submission Period, for reasons beyond the University's control, the Award is not capable of running as originally planned, the University, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to cancel or modify the Award without liability, and to the extent feasible, will determine the Winners and award the Prize among Story submissions received prior to cancellation or modification.

- 7. License.** All Entrants, and specifically each Winner as a condition of receiving the Prize, hereby grants the University a transferable, irrevocable, perpetual, non-exclusive, fully paid-up, and royalty-free license to copy, distribute, publish, and display their individual Story on the Planet Forward website (as applicable), at the Planet Forward Summit, and in other Planet Forward marketing materials.

- 8. Use of Name and Likeness.** The Winners agree to allow the University to use their names and images on future Award promotional materials, with regards to the Planet Forward Summit and on the Planet Forward website for promotional purposes.
- 9. Release of Liability and Issues of Law.** By participating, all Entrants release the University and its officers, directors, employees, and agents (collectively, "Released Parties") from any and all liability with respect to and in any way arising from participating in an Award submission and/or acceptance or use of the Prize. Released Parties are not responsible for lost, late, incomplete, inconsistent, damaged, inaccurate, stolen, delayed, undelivered, or garbled Story submissions; or for lost, interrupted, or unavailable network, server, internet service provider, website; or for other errors or difficulties of any kind whether human, mechanical, electronic, computer, network, typographical or otherwise relating to or in connection with the Award, including, without limitation, errors or difficulties which may occur in connection with the administration of the Award, the Story submission, or the announcement of the Winners. Released Parties also are not responsible for any incorrect or inaccurate information, whether caused by other Entrants, tampering, hacking, or by any equipment or programming associated with or utilized in an Award submission. Released Parties are not responsible for injury or damage to any Entrants' computer or tracking device related to or resulting from participating in an Award submission. Entrants who tamper with or abuse any aspect of the Award submission process, who act in an unprofessional or disruptive manner or who are in violation of these Official Rules, as solely determined by the University, will be disqualified. Should any portion of an Award submission be, in the University's sole opinion, compromised by virus, worms, bugs, non-authorized human intervention, or other causes which, in the sole opinion of the University, corrupt or impair the administration, security, fairness, or proper play, the University reserves the right at its sole discretion to suspend, modify, or terminate the Award selection process and, if terminated, at its discretion and to the extent possible, determine Winners from all eligible Story submissions received prior to action.
- 10. Governing Law; Parties in Interest.** These Official Rules are governed by all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. The local and federal courts of the District of Columbia shall have sole jurisdiction of any controversies regarding the Official Rules and laws of the District of Columbia shall govern the Official Rules. All Entrants waive any and all objections to jurisdiction and venue in those courts and hereby submit to the jurisdiction of those courts.
- 11. Communications.** Any Entrants with questions or comments regarding the Official Rules should contact storyfest@planetforward.org.