STROKES OF GENIUS

2017 School Art Open House
Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™
JUDGING CRITERIA – ALL ENTRIES

1. The following criteria will be considered when artwork is judged. Originality, creativity and composition will be heavily weighted along with the student’s ability to apply technical skill and artistic excellence.

a. **Originality**: Is the concept or idea original? Is it the student’s own work and/or does the work show composition with multiple sources? **Does it appeal to a wide-ranging audience?**

b. **Creativity**: Does the piece of art show the student’s imagination? **Is the subject matter unique**? Is the interpretation innovative?

c. **Skill**: Skill is assessed based on the age of the artist.

d. **Excellence in 2D drawing**: What extent of accuracy has the student achieved? How difficult is the chosen media? How well does the student draw, use colors, hues, shading and textures?
Explore the raw talent and unknown possibilities by expanding new techniques, colorful palettes, and creative approaches to Western Art.

“Spur Stop” – Deb Penk

(P) Primary Source  (S) Secondary Source
The images depicted in this presentation are provided to stimulate ideas, and suggest new techniques. Copying ANY likeness of these images is not permitted as most are from professional artists. Some of these techniques may not be suitable for some students’ abilities.

HLSR School Art is very proud of the hard work all students, teachers and administrators put forth every year. We wish you the very best and look forward to a successful 2017!
Using pastels, oils and acrylics provide **vivid colors, and textures**.

The title can make the piece!

“Second String” – Barbara Meikle

(P) Primary Source  (S) Secondary Source
Challenge the hues of black & whites with charcoals and graphite.
Create depth with soft and dark shadows, textures and shapes.

Note the softer airbrush background accentuates the strong lines of the horses snout and neck

“Mensteno” – Howard Halbert

(P) Primary Source (S) Secondary Source
Keys to choosing good sources:

- Your source(s) should be of Western theme or heritage.
- Stay away from using your family members, pets, etc. as primary sources unless you plan on adding multiple western sources to compliment them.
- Go with **unique** sources and titles.
- Subject should **stimulate emotion to the your audience**.
- Ask yourself while choosing the source, would this be something I would hang in my home?
- **Think of how the auction buyers see the art!**
Keys to a successful piece of artwork:

- **Be comfortable** with your medium.
- Use **multiple** sources.
- Take some time and sketch different ideas for your artwork. Take pictures yourself if time. Go on short field trips with friends to shoot pictures.
- Art with **movement and color** drive positive emotions with audiences.
- Stay away from drab colors and subject matter.
- Strong contrasts and **vivid colors** help deliver the message of the artworks’ story.
- **Don’t be afraid to be creative!**
Take a simple subject and maximize it with vivid colors, palettes and shadows.

(Three sources were used to create this painting. Cactus and sky were enhanced, adding color and contrast)

“A Desert Friend” Sarah Webber - Oil

(P) Primary Source (S) Secondary Source
Even the very simple subjects can create a memorable picture and story. **Using negative space pulls attention to the subject matter.**
Create emotion with the scene. Pull on the heartstrings of the viewers by adding youth and/or animals.

"Lunch Break" Cynthia Feustel - Oil

(P) Primary Source (S) Secondary Source

(Multiple sources were used to create this painting)
Perspectives from the bottom or top can help create depth and atmosphere.

Young cowboy gets a sneak peak of the travelling circus. (Use warm and vivid colors to enhance a normal sky. Give the cowboy a red shirt instead of the plaid one he had on)

"The Flying Circus Hits Laramie" – Nancy Boren

(P) Primary Source (S) Secondary Source
Challenge your students to use multiple sources. This is a good sign of creative composition and is highly encouraged.

(Five sources were used in composing this artwork)
Create emotion from a time gone by – telling a story of the last ride.

Use multiple sources to enhance the mood you’re after.

Capture the audiences memories.

“Deserted” – Susan Temple Neuman

Old truck in local junk yard (P)

Western setting (S)

(P) Primary Source (S) Secondary Source
Lack of detail can create a clear picture in most viewers eyes. Key highlights help with focal points.

Keeping it simple can say so much.
Pull the viewer into the scene by adding music, song or dance.

(Just a simple chuckwagon picture until the fiddle gets pulled out. Using multiple sources allows you to create your own story inside your artwork)

“Prairie Waltz” – Sharon Standridge

(P) Primary Source (S) Secondary Source
Action takes on a whole new perspective when the background is a picture in itself.

Due to loose background, a source would be optional.

(The name simply adds a whole new perspective to the urgency of the ride. Let the audience depict the scene.)

“Into the Storm” Diane Whitehead

(P) Primary Source (S) Secondary Source
Be different.
Set the scene by creating an image few have seen before.
Don’t be afraid to step out.

“Going My Way” Cheri Christensen
(P) Primary Source (S) Secondary Source

(Mix different sources to create a one of a kind picture. Have some fun!)
Even the simple subjects can be brought to life with bold colors and rich textures.

(Encourage your students to get out and search for subjects unique to their own eye.)
Sources can be staged and photographed or pulled from other sources as secondary images.

(Over 5 sources were used in composing this painting)

(P) Primary Source (S) Secondary Source
Altering a simple picture of a pair of boots into a patriotic statement creates emotion and a desire to join the ride!

“True American Heading West” – Nelson Boren

(P) Primary Source (S) Secondary Source
Mixing popular subjects and sources attracts a wide range of audiences to your artwork.

"A Bit Worrisome" – Mark Bray

(P) Primary Source (S) Secondary Source
Keep all 3D images simple and loose.
Proper armature and secure mounting is mandatory for handling.

“Patience and Persistence”
Edd Hayes

“Changin Range”
Vic Payne

Two cowboys leaning on fence (P)
Wagon wheel (S)

Young cowboy and horse (P)
Two cowdogs (S)

(P) Primary Source (S) Secondary Source
Key Notes for 2017;

- Use **lots of color**, have some **fun** with your subject matter.
- Titles are just as important as the art itself.
- Do your **sources** inspire others?
- Double check your rules and make sure all images are **correct size** and mediums are **completely dry**, etc.
- Have fun with your art!
Keep your perspectives wide open and imaginations bright!

Good luck and thank you.

“An Early Start” – Linda Tuma Robertson