



## Editorial Guidelines

*Public Roads* is proud to announce its first Student Writing Competition, designed to encourage high school and college students interested in or actively pursuing STEM majors to demonstrate their knowledge by writing an article that relates to the transportation industry.

The competition aims to highlight students' capabilities and acumen in the world of transportation technology and research while giving them early insight into the process of writing scholarly articles and publications.

Selected works will be showcased in the 2024 Winter issue of *Public Roads* magazine.

### Deadline Calendar

#### Articles to be published in the Winter 2024 Issue

- Date the competition opens: May 24, 2023.
- Date questions relating to the guidelines are due: June 2, 2023.
- Date answers to questions are posted online: June 12, 2023.
- Date applications are due: June 21, 2023.
- Date articles are due: July 21, 2023.
- Date winners are notified: December 2023.

### Eligibility

High school students (grades 10–12 or equivalent).

Undergraduate or graduate students.

Multiple entries (articles) will be allowed but a separate entry form must be submitted for each topic.

### Format

- Articles should be a minimum of 500 words (one page) and a maximum of 1,000 words (2 pages).
- Photos are encouraged. *Public Roads* will require students and/or their parents (if applicable) to provide written permission to use their personal photos prior to inclusion in the magazine.
- Topics must be related to the transportation industry and address at least one of the goals and objectives of the [Federal Highway Administration's Strategic Plan 2019-2022](#) relating to



safety, infrastructure, innovation, or accountability. Articles can also speak to resiliency, mobility and accessibility, and equity in transportation.

- Entries will be identified by a designated number to ensure unbiased review of each submission, which should appear in the upper right-hand corner of each page.
- Neither the author's name nor the name of the author's school should appear anywhere on the entry. (Note: While entries are reviewed anonymously, the selected authors will receive a byline in the magazine when their articles are published.)
- All entries must be submitted as a Microsoft Word file (.doc or .docx). Include the title of the piece in the file name, as well as at the top of the entry.
- Work must be original. Any borrowed ideas or language must be appropriately acknowledged with noted references/citations. Inclusion of URLs is encouraged to help support fact checking as part of the editorial process.
- *Public Roads* reserves the right to perform minor edits on submissions to align with standard Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and *Public Roads* style. Final copies of winning articles will be sent to the respective student(s) for their records prior to print.
- Promotional language or endorsements, such as recommending use of a specific brand of equipment or product, is prohibited. Students are encouraged to write their articles in general terms.
- Students are also prohibited from either promoting/endorsing or slandering any political official, party, or legislation.
- Guidance on how to write an article for *Public Roads* can be found at: [Guidelines for Authors: Public Roads Magazine | FHWA \(dot.gov\)](#)
- Current and previous articles can be found at [Public Roads Magazine | FHWA \(dot.gov\)](#)

### Judging Criteria

- Does the article address one or more of the goals and objectives of FHWA?
- Was the topic, problem/solution statement, or theory original?
- Does the topic explore trends in the industry or present data in a meaningful way?
- Does it offer reasonable and feasible implementation?
- Does it demonstrate knowledge and understanding of transportation systems?
- Was the information presented in a clear, concise manner?
- Was the document free of grammatical and punctuation errors?

