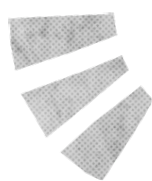




Mind the GAP International Young Arts Competiton

For ages 11–15 · Chapter-based global competition · Writing or Video

Mind the GAP is an international, chapter-based liberal arts competition that amplifies young voices – especially from underserved communities. Create a written piece or a short film/video about identity, equity, culture, work, or community. Submit one progress documentation to show how you made it. Entris are accepted through local Chapters only.



2026 Global Competition Timeline

Applications Open: Now

Deadline: June 1 (11:59 PM -- your local time)

Chapter Verification: Immediately after Deadline

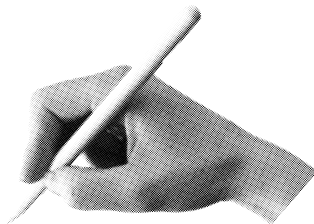
Global Review & Showcase: Fall

All entries must be submitted through a registered Chapter in your country/region.

Eligibility (Who can apply?)



- To be eligible, you must be able to answer “Yes” to these statements:
- I am 11–15 years old as of June 1 this cycle.
- I will submit through a local Chapter in my region/country.
 - ex: Even if you live in Jeonju, you can submit through any Korean chapter (ex: Korea–Seoul, Korea–Jeju, etc.) since there are no chapters in Jeonju.
 - No direct submissions to HQ; all entries must go through a Chapter. If you cannot find one, start a Chapter or request a temporary liaison Chapter via our form.
- I will submit one final work (either Writing or Video) and one progress documentation (photos or short making-of clip).
- I will complete the Demographics Form (disability, orphanage status, grade level, etc.).
- Parent/guardian consent is provided (required for all minors).



Accepted Formats (choose one)

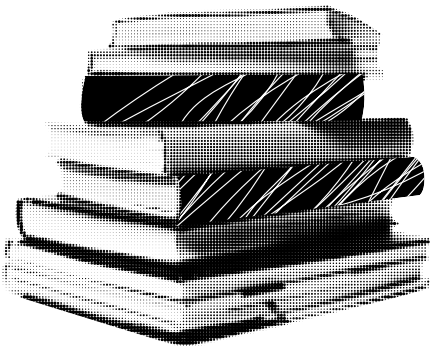
1) Writing

- Form: personal essay, profile/reportage, op-ed, narrative non-fiction, poetry sequence (up to 5 poems counted as one entry), etc.
- Length: 800–1,500 words (poetry: up to 5 pages).
- Language: English or local language. If not English, include a 100–150-word English abstract.
- File: PDF or DOCX. Filename: Chapter-Country_Lastname_Firstname_Title.pdf.

2) Video

- Type: short documentary, personal essay film, interview piece, creative nonfiction, musical performance, art, etc.
- Length: 2–5 minutes (max 5:00).
- Specs: 720p+ (1080p preferred), MP4/MOV, captions/subtitles required if not English.
- Music/footage: only original or properly licensed.
- File: upload via Chapter portal (or link) + caption file if applicable.

Mandatory Progress Documentation (1 item)



Every applicant must submit one of the following to show process and growth:

- Behind-the-scenes video (30–90 seconds), or
- 3–6 making photos with 1–2 sentence captions each.
- Your progress doc should show how you researched, drafted, filmed, interviewed, or revised—not perfection. Include date/location and a brief note on your role. Chapter leaders verify authenticity.



Themes & Prompts (these are f

Overall Theme: Our World

Our World encourages students to explore the world they live in and the people, places, and experiences that shape their daily lives. Through creative work in art, music, or writing, participants are invited to express their thoughts, feelings, and ideas about what they see around them and how they relate to it. Submissions can be personal, observational, or imaginative, and there is no single “right” interpretation; students can choose one of the following sub-themes ot submit for.

Sub-Themes

1. Family & Relationships

This sub-theme focuses on the relationships that are important in our lives. Students may explore family members, relatives, or people who feel like family to them. Works can show love, support, conflict, change, or meaningful moments, and how relationships influence who we are and how we grow.

2. Friends & Community

This sub-theme invites students to reflect on friendship and community. Submissions may explore making friends, working together, helping others, or feeling included or excluded. Students can also represent the communities they are part of, such as school, neighborhoods, teams, or clubs.

3. Environment & Nature

This sub-theme encourages students to observe and reflect on the natural world. Submissions may focus on plants, animals, weather, landscapes, or human impact on the environment. Students can express appreciation for nature, concerns about environmental issues, or everyday interactions with their surroundings.

4. Culture & Identity

This sub-theme explores who we are and where we come from. Students may reflect on traditions, language, food, customs, or personal experiences related to culture and identity. Submissions can express pride, curiosity, confusion, or discovery as students learn more about themselves and others.

5. Challenges & Growth

This sub-theme focuses on difficulties and learning experiences. Students may explore challenges they face in school or life and how they respond to them. Submissions can show effort, perseverance, failure, improvement, and personal growth over time.

6. Dreams & The Future

This sub-theme invites students to imagine what lies ahead. Submissions may explore hopes, goals, and dreams for the future, or creative ideas about what the world could become. Students are encouraged to think about change, possibility, and optimism.

7. Everyday Life

This sub-theme focuses on ordinary moments that are often overlooked. Students may explore daily routines, small joys, quiet moments, or familiar places. Submissions can show how simple experiences can hold meaning and shape how we understand our world.

Find Your Chapter

Search the chapter directory and choose the one closest to your region/country. If none exists, apply to start a Chapter or request a liaison Chapter.

1. Create an Account & Select Your Format (Writing or Video).

2. Complete the Application Form

a. Contact info (applicant + guardian)

b. Demographics (required): disability, orphanage status, grade level, location, language(s)

c. Consent & media release (guardian signature)

3. Upload Your Work (final piece) + Progress Documentation (1 item).

4. Submit by March 1 (11:59 PM local time) through the application form linked in the website. The branch leader will submit this form for you.

5. Chapter Verification (age/eligibility/process check) → Global Jury review → Results posted in your portal.

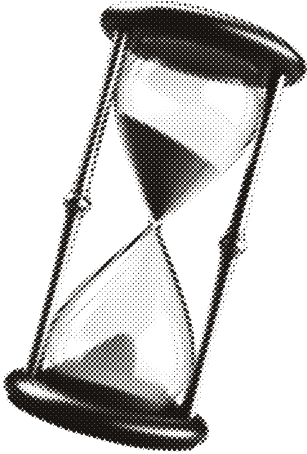
Fees: There is no application fee. Chapters may host optional workshops at no cost.
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Judging & Rubric

Entries are reviewed first by Chapter juries, then by the Global Jury of educators, journalists, artists, and community leaders.

Rubric (100 points total)

- Voice & Clarity (20): authenticity, coherence, and audience awareness.
- Insight & Originality (25): fresh perspective; depth of thinking; ethical sensitivity.
- Evidence & Craft (20): reporting or research effort; structure; editing; language/film craft.
- Empathy & Impact (20): human connection; community relevance; dignity in portrayal.
- Process & Growth (15): documented effort; iteration; reflection shown in progress doc.
- We evaluate content over equipment. Smartphone footage and local-language storytelling are welcome.



Recognition (Why Apply?) / Prizes

- International Honorees & Chapter Honorees (digital certificate + website gallery feature)
- Global Showcase: selected works featured on our site & official YouTube/Vimeo channel
- Mentor Dialogues: online feedback sessions with writers/filmmakers/journalists
- Alumni Network: join the Mind the GAP youth community to collaborate across cities/countries
- Donations from Sponsors: receiving donations from sponsors/communities to provide for participants
- Opportunities: many opportunities depending on like potentially performing with a larger orchestra is provided

Submissions from privileged and less privileged backgrounds are judged in different categories to consider the difference in their exposure to resources..

Chapters: What, Why, How

What is a chapter?

- A school, NGO, library, youth center, or informal educator hub that:
- Registers local applicants;
- Hosts one orientation (online/offline);
- Verifies age/eligibility and progress documentation;
- Submits shortlisted entries to the Global Jury.

Become a Chapter

- Complete the Chapter Application (org/contact, safeguarding policy, translation capacity).
- Agree to zero-fee participation, privacy standards, and inclusive outreach (actively recruit under-served youth).
- Receive a Chapter Code and access to the dashboard, toolkit, and templates.

Don't see a Chapter near you?

- Apply to start a Micro-Chapter (min. 5 entrants) or request a liaison Chapter in your country.

Accessibility, Ethics & Privacy

- Safeguarding: guardians' consent required; sensitive stories handled with care; no doxxing.
- Demographics: collected to track inclusion and improve access, not used to advantage/disadvantage in judging.
- Translations: we accept English, Korean; other languages welcome with English abstract/subtitles.
- Copyright: use only content you own or have permission to use.
- Data Privacy: we store minimal data; anonymize public displays; you may request removal at any time.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. I'm 10 or 16. Can I apply?

A. This cycle is strictly 11–15. Please check future cycles for updated ranges.

Q. I live far from a Chapter (e.g., Jeonju). What do I do?

A. Apply through any Korea Chapter (Seoul/Jeju/etc.). Chapters accept remote submissions within their country.

Q. Can I submit both writing and video?

A. One final work per applicant each cycle (choose Writing or Video).

Q. Can I collaborate?

A. This cycle is individual submission only. You may acknowledge collaborators in your credits/notes.

Q. Will my work be public?

A. Only selected works will be published after guardian consent. You can opt-out of public display while remaining eligible.

Q. Do I need professional equipment?

A. No. Phone camera + clear audio + strong storytelling is enough.

Quick Checklist (before you submit)

- ✓ Age 11–15
- ✓ Registered through a Chapter
- ✓ Final work (Writing or Video)
- ✓ Progress documentation (1 item)
- ✓ Demographics & guardian consent complete

Submit by June 1, 11:59 PM (local)

