



Prompts for the theme “I Wish You Knew...”

Are you thinking about entering the Voice of Today Art, Poetry, and Photography contest but you’re not sure how to address the theme? You’ve come to the right place. As you read through the information below, remember to put your own, unique twist on your submission! The ideas listed below are just prompts to get you thinking about how YOU want to conceptualize your submission.

For 6th through 8th Graders:

- Is there a special part of your life that you wish others knew about? Maybe you have a hidden talent that you wish you could share with the world?
- Consider this an opportunity to share “the real you.” You could use your entry as an exploration into what’s beneath your public persona. Do you wear one “mask” at home, and another “mask” at school, with friends, or on social media?
- Unspoken feelings: You might want to use your art to convey feelings, emotions, or ideas that are difficult to put into words.
- Maybe you’ve noticed something unique or amazing about someone you care about, and you don’t think others notice – perhaps you could convey what you see through art?

For 9th through 12th Graders:

- Change is a big part of adolescence. Consider using your entry to explore the struggles and triumphs of metamorphosis, growing up, and becoming your own person.
- The public versus private self: Use your art to discuss the masks people wear in certain aspects of life – What are they showing? What are they concealing?
- Navigating societal pressures is another part of being a teenager – What do you wish the world knew about the pressures you face regarding school, social media, or the future?
- What is an individual identity? Use your art to deconstruct the idea of identity – What layers do you encounter? What role do those layers play in the overall idea of personal identity? How are those shaped (or not) by the person’s environment?

We hope these prompts help to spark your own, creative thoughts about this year’s theme, “I Wish You Knew.” If you’re still struggling, start by deciding who is the “you” in “I Wish YOU Knew...”? Who is the “I”? Different points of view can lead to new and interesting ideas and identifying the perspective of the piece you want to create is a great starting point. Remember, you are the artist! You are in charge of what hits the canvas, page, or lens. We want to know what you wish we knew, and, as always, **we can’t wait to see your art!**



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