

The New York Times Learning Network 2017 Student Editorial Contest Finalists
(in alphabetical order by title)

Top 10 Winners

- "A Psychedelic Cure?" by Reagan Briere, age 16
- "In Nothing We Trust" by Francesca Kelley, age 18
- "Leave the Citizens to Their TV Shows" by Yijia Hu, age 17
- "Losing the Internet" by David Scharts, age 15
- "Reform the Prison, Then the Prisoner" by Katherine Leonard, age 16
- "Stopping Bullets With Locked Doors and Silence Is Already Pulling the Trigger" by Daina Kalnina, age 15
- "The Anguish of the Rich" by Yiqi Wang, age 17
- "The Asian Misnomer: What the Affirmative Action Debate Misses" by Matteo Wong, age 16
- "The Collateral Damage of Defending Democracy" by Sarah Heiland, age 18
- "The Missing Anthropological Exhibit at the American Museum of Natural History" by Alec Farber, age 16

Runners-Up

- "America First" by Safa Saleh, age 17
- "America? More Like Ameri-Can't Vote" by Gianni Carcagno, age 17
- "Climate Literacy: A Critical Step Toward Climate Stability" by Ella Shriner, age 14 and Hannah Witscher, age 15
- "Cultural Appropriation: A Measure of Empathy" by James Chang, age 16
- "Discourse Is Democracy: Allowing Uncensored Speech on College Campuses" by Abigail Hogan, age 17
- "Drone Warfare: The Failing Fight Against the Modern Hydra" by Michael Levinger, age 16
- "Generation Code Red" by Grace Scullion, age 16
- "Humane Human Zoo?" by Ella Ward, age 15
- "Paper or Plastic? How About a Paper ON Plastic!" by Melody Markert, age 17
- "The Future Disintegration of American Democracy Through Athletics" by Julianne Yu, age 16
- "The Case for Teaching News Literacy" by Mary Hannah Grier, age 17
- "The Unspoken Alphabet Problem" by Stephanie Zhang, age 14
- "The 'War on Drugs' Will Never Work; Legalization Will" by Kristina Vakhman, age 18
- "There Is No Happily Ever After Without Once Upon a Time" by Bridget O'Leary, age 17
- "When Will This Class Be Useful?" by Casey Stark, age 15

Honorable Mentions

- "#WorldChanger" by Joyce Zhou, age 17
- "A Case for Impassiveness" by Lea Marchl, age 16
- "A Scoop in the Right Direction" by Emma S., age 18
- "AP Tests Don't Leave Enough Room for the Human Side of History" by Tom Malmgren, age 16
- "Are My Shoulders Distracting You?" by Mairi Alice Dun, age 17
- "Autism: Educated and Extraordinary" by Isabella Zhang, age 17
- "Bittersweet" by Rena Rachlin, age 15
- "Child Labor in the U.S. Today" by Jasmine Campos, age 16 and Charlotte Principal, age 16
- "China Needs Silver Lining" by Wangchen Zhou, age 17
- "Colleges Should Abandon Race-Based Affirmative Action to Achieve True Diversity" by Eric Davis, age 18
- "Embrace the Mess" by Chi Yu, age 14
- "Fast Fashion Is Destroying Our World" by Melissa Wang, age 17

Honorable Mentions (continued)

- "Food Stamps Need a Change" by Patrick Meara, age 17
"Governor Cuomo Frees the Plastic Bags" by Jiayan Chen, age 17
"Help Wanted: Moderate Politicians" by Ireland Degges, age 17
"High School Should Not Just Be About Sports" by Swathi Kella, age 16
"How Far Can Post-Truth Democracy Take Us?" by Jiahe Yang, age 18
"How to Revitalize the Public Education System" by Dhara Yu, age 18
"Last Man Standing" by Kathryn Porter, age 16
"Leave Me Alone" by Celia Silver, age 17
"More Than a Morning Kick" by Emma Cary, age 16
"Multiple Choice: Not Multiple Enough" by Yi-Mei Templeman, age 17
"Picking Cotton: An Immigrant's Perspective" by Allan Njomo, age 16
"Post-Democracy" by Nadav Ziv, age 17
"Should Juvenile Offenders Receive Life Sentences Without Parole on Their First Offense?" by Tayler Gavetti, age 16
"Should Obamacare Be Repealed?" by William Pharo, age 16
"Single Payer: A Cure for America's Healthcare Woes" by Akshay Manglik, age 13
"Streaky Friendship" by Yuxin Long, age 16
"Technology: A Hindrance to Learning" by Zachary Weiss, age 17
"Teens, Technology, and The Pursuit of Happiness" by Sam Jagolinzer, age 17
"The Bluest Note" by Nicholas Dasoveanu, age 18
"The College Conspiracy" by Serenity W., age 17
"The Cost of Health Care May Be in Your Genes" by Sophia Lo, age 16
"The Demoralizing of the Elizabethan Language" by Olivia Seymour, age 14
"The Disposable Nightmare" by Tianxin Guo, age 14
"The Education Gap" by Adam Traweek, age 16
"The Environment in the Age of Trump" by Elliot Tuttle, age 17
"The Growing Problem of Screen Addiction" by Kaitlin Craig, age 16
"The Picture of Education We Must Change" by Danielle Naidrich, age 17
"Tipping the Pay Scale" by Ruhee Damle, age 14
"Untitled" by Melinda Hartz, age 16
"We Should Be Teaching Rap Music in Schools" by Jack Zuckerman, age 19
"What Do You Call Someone That Only Speaks One Language? An American." by Paige Patton, age 16
"Where Are All the Rainbows?" by Storm Viridian Murray, age 17
"Where Trump's Ban Stands Legally" by Marcus Linde, age 16

Round 3 Finalists

- "50 Shades of the Shanghai Marriage Market" by Aaron Wang, age 16
"Applying the American Dream to the Undocumented" by Jae Yun Ham, age 16
"Are Zoos Killing Your Favorite Animals?" by Caroline Seidenzahl, age 13
"Asian-American. Key-Word, American." by Anyi Qian, age 16
"Assisted Suicide: Is it Right?" by Alicia Duarte, age 14
"Bridging the Racial Gap Among Teachers" by Erin Chung, age 16
"Chasing Dreams, Not Employment" by Caleb Downing, age 15
"Consumed by Over-Consumption" by Whitney Rosenfeld, age 18
"Cultural Appropriation: A Measure of Empathy" by James Chang, age 16
"Curly hair. Chocolate skin. Insecure." by Nardos Carlson, age 19

Round 3 Finalists (continued)

- "De-extinction: An Expensive, Futile Distraction" by Vishnu Bharathram, age 14
- "Deflating the Achievement Gap" by Maya Castronovo, age 16
- "Do Girls' Beauty Standards Change After Watching Disney Movies" by Natalie Brewer, age 13
- "Expressive Algorithms: Can Computers be Artists?" by Jisoo Hope Yoon, age 16
- "Five Minutes" by Elizabeth Williams, age 16
- "History Class Bias" by Kewen Kong, age 17
- "Hope Is a Heartbeat" by Faiha Zaidi, age 17
- "I Probably Can't Get Into a Prestigious Liberal Arts College and I'm O.K. With That" by Dean Kopitsky, age 17
- "Is Too Much Stress Put on Students?" by Tara Hall, age 15
- "It's Not Just Black or White" by Amelia Worley, age 16
- "It's Time for an American Popular Vote" by Gordon Hu, age 13
- "Keeping Up With Corporate Greed" by Casey McGrath, age 15 and Ann Ovrutsky, age 15
- "Knowledge for All" by Sarah Zou, age 17
- "Learning in Retrograde: Success Is More Than a Good Grade" by Pamela Barajas Adame, age 17
- "Lower Student to Teacher Ratios Equals Higher Test Scores" by Ryan Freidhoff, age 14
- "Lowering the Drinking Age Promotes More Responsible Drinking" by Taraneh Barjesteh, age 17
- "Make the Birds and the Bees Normal" by Wenjin Liu, age 16
- "Non-Visible Non-Binary" by Lane Fox, age 15
- "Overused: 'Lit' Words and 'Fly' Phrases" by Emily Runnette, age 15
- "Patriotism in Protest" by Matt Valecce, age 17
- "Print Books vs. E-Books" by Autumn Newman, age 17
- "Requiem for a Bluebird" by Zachary Milonas, age 18
- "Should Less Schools Be Taking Away Recess" by Bella Burns, age 14
- "Should Music Education Classes Be Required?" by Emma Stopher, age 17
- "Shut Down the Zoo!" by Taylor Stanford, age 13
- "Solitary Confinement in Prisons and Why Rehabilitation Should Replace It" by Maria Bordonaro, age 16
- "Struggles of the Menstruating Woman" by Maddy Brinker, age 18
- "Student Metrocards -- A Need for Reform" by Mei Hua Mei, age 18
- "Take Back Your FREADom" by Eve Krupcheck, age 15
- "The Asian Illusion" by Ragini Bora, age 15
- "The Benefits of Single Gender Education" by Cassandra Mirasolo, age 17
- "The Campus Conundrum" by Ryan Stevens, age 18
- "The Cosmos Conflict: Should We Expand Our Space Exploration?" by Bryce Moran, age 18
- "The Importance of Libraries" by Ziya Jang, age 15
- "The Lack of Sex Ed" by Gabriela Mejia, age 17
- "The Me Generation's Second Coming (or the Third, or the Fourth, or the Fifth...)" by Saralyn Withers, age 17
- "The Oppressed Who Oppress" by Neha Narayan, age 14
- "The Parasite of Self Reliance" by Aileen Wu, age 16
- "The Pitfalls of the Uber-Consumer" by 21slav, age 14
- "The Preservation of Discrimination (College Edition)" by Nico Modesti, age 17
- "The Pursuit of Happiness: Striving to Meet Unrealistic Beauty Standards" by Danielle Graves, age 17
- "The Stakes of Steaks: Why Vegetarianism Is Clearly the Better Lifestyle" by Izma Casubhoy, age 13
- "The Water Crisis" by Archana Raidi, age 15
- "The Young and the Reckless" by Etta Feuer, age 14
- "Water Pollution" by Harry Song, age 15
- "Why Chick Flicks Can Be Hard to Click With" by Jane Wang, age 17
- "Why Defunding Planned Parenthood Means Unplanned Parenthood" by 21sadyer, age 14
- "Why Students Shouldn't Mess With Stress" by Caroline Kremer, age 16