

### Some Helpful Hints:

A photo illustration is a type of digital art that begins with a digital photograph. Using special image enhancement software, the artist can then apply a variety of special effects to transform the photo into a work of art.

Be sure to design a PHOTO ILLUSTRATION, NOT AN INFOGRAPHIC!

An **infographic** helps readers visualize data with specific numbers and facts. A **photo illustration** helps the reader visualize an abstract feeling or concept based on the article.

### Instructions:

DO NOT WRITE YOUR NAME OR SCHOOL NAME ON YOUR ENTRY.

## WHAT JUDGES LOOK FOR

- Visually communicates an idea
- Shows originality and innovation
- Shows creativity
- Work is clean and well executed
- Artistic details fit topic or content
- Sophisticated use of illustration software
- Follows current design trends

# Contest 26 Graphic Design: Photo Illustration

## Assignment: READ CAREFULLY — UPDATED RULES!

- Read the following article carefully. You will be trying to capture a concept from the article that couldn't really be photographed purely on its own.
- Design one black-and-white or color photo illustration that fits on an 8 1/2-by-11-inch piece of paper. Submit a photograph that has been manipulated through Photoshop or other photo-manipulation program to accompany a story package for publication using typography and/or art and graphics.
- Contestants must shoot the photograph(s) themselves and then manipulate it using desktop publishing software. Be sure to ONLY use images you created. No stock photos/copyrighted material may be incorporated into the illustration.
- Prepare materials before the convention and upload a PDF to [writeoffs.jea.org](http://writeoffs.jea.org).
- **Entries must be completed and uploaded between Feb. 19 and March 27. On the last day, the cut-off time is 7 p.m. Eastern, 6 p.m. Central, 5 p.m. Mountain, 4 p.m. Pacific, 3 p.m. Alaska and 1 p.m. Hawaii time.**
- You must be present at the convention and attend the critique session on Friday or you will be disqualified.

## Submission Instructions:

### To Make A PDF

Depending on the software you are using to create your page, the procedure for exporting as a PDF will vary. In general, however, you want to export your PDF as a medium-range quality, such as "High Quality Print." The PDF may not be larger than 4 MB. In InDesign, this is done on the Export Adobe PDF dialog box (File >> Adobe PDF Presets >> High Quality Print).

If you created your entry in a program other than InDesign, you can still reduce the file size significantly by using Adobe Acrobat Pro. Look for a feature such as "Reduce File Size." In Acrobat Pro X, this is done by File >> Save As >> Reduced Size PDF.

### To Upload An Entry

After preparing the PDF, go to [writeoffs.jea.org](http://writeoffs.jea.org). Select the View Contests under Manage Students. Click on the  icon beside the contest name and then the  icon to manage student submissions. **Material MUST be uploaded beginning Feb. 19, but no later than March 27, 2019 by 7 p.m. Eastern, 6 p.m. Central, 5 p.m. Mountain, 4 p.m. Pacific, 3 p.m. Alaska and 1 p.m. Hawaii time.**

You must be present at the convention and attend the critique session on Friday or you will be disqualified. Do not wait until the last day! There are NO EXCEPTIONS.

# Your guide to navigating the anti-plastic straw movement

By Chloe Bryan, July 18, 2018, [mashable.com](https://mashable.com)

At last, the great straw reckoning is upon us.

Last week, Starbucks announced it would phase out plastic straws by 2020, replacing them with a plastic lid that resembles the top of a sippy cup. Numerous cities across the U.S., including Seattle, Oakland, Malibu, and Miami Beach, have already banned single-use plastic straws. In New York City, a councilman has introduced legislation to ban straws there, too. And celebrities like Adrian Grenier, who co-founded the Lonely Whale Foundation, have been on the #StopSucking grind for years.

But how effective is a straw ban, really? When we ban plastic straws wholesale, who do we exclude? And how are we supposed to ... drink stuff?

Here's what you need to know.

## Why are people giving up straws?

You've probably seen that sad viral video of a sea turtle with a straw stuck up its nose. The issue of plastic in our oceans is a real one — according to one oft-cited study, Americans use over 500 million single-use plastic straws every day. Most of these straws end up in the oceans, where they kill wildlife, disrupt ecosystems, and break down into tiny pieces called "microplastics." They never break down completely.

When people give up straws or advocate for straw bans, they're basically trying to keep plastic out of the ocean.

## What straw alternatives are there?

There are quite a few choices that will work for many people, each with a unique set of pros and cons.

**Stainless steel straws:** These are a strong option if you want to start carrying a set of Purse Straws. Keep them in a pencil pouch and pop them in the dishwasher when they're dirty. (If you don't have a dishwasher, a pipe cleaner will work.) Though they're obviously not the best for drinking hot drinks because the metal gets hot, too. Guard your lips.

**Paper straws:** Disposable paper straws won't help you generate less waste, just a different kind of waste. They also taste really bad. Not the best.

**Silicone straws:** A company called Koffie Straw makes these guys, which are composed of biodegradable silicone. (In fact, they'll burn down into ash when you're ready to get rid of them.) Reviewers on Amazon are big fans: "I love the fact that [the straw] comes with a cleaning brush and are easy to clean," one user wrote. "The straws are sturdy and tolerate the heat of coffee."

"I like the slow sipping and the fact that I don't constantly burn my tongue now," said another reviewer. Seems good!

**No straw at all:** It's possible for many people to forgo straws entirely, of course, and consume beverages out of ... just a cup. If you're a lipstick wearer, though, this may strike fear into your heart. That's where a long-lasting lipstick can come in — we've heard NYX Matte Lipstick and Revlon ColorStay Ultimate Liquid Lipstick are both strong options.

### **What's the downside to a straw ban?**

The downside is actually a huge one. As the anti-straw movement picks up momentum, disability rights advocates are pointing out that a full straw ban would make life substantially more difficult for some people with disabilities.

“Many people with physical disabilities such as cerebral palsy and multiple sclerosis require the use of plastic straws in order to hydrate,” representatives from Disability Rights Washington wrote in the wake of Seattle’s straw ban. “Other types of straws simply do not offer the combination of strength, flexibility, and safety that plastic straws do. Metal straws become hot or cold and offer a risk of injury.”

In addition, paper straws can soften and disintegrate quickly, posing a choking hazard for those who take longer to finish a beverage.

So what do we do? Instead of putting the impetus on the disabled community to provide their own straws, activists suggest making single-use plastic straws available at coffee shops and restaurants upon request. It does seem like a no-brainer as far as inclusivity is concerned.

### **Is not using straws actually going to work?**

Here’s where it gets a little more complicated. Yes, if people use fewer plastic straws, the amount of plastic in the ocean will likely decrease. And if even one sea turtle avoids getting a straw stuck up its nose, that’s a good thing — especially considering humans use the average plastic straw for a total of only 20 minutes.

However, the plastic straw is not the primary reason oceans are so contaminated. According to a study published in the journal *Scientific Reports*, 46 percent of the mass of plastic in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch — “a major ocean plastic accumulation zone formed in subtropical waters between California and Hawaii” — is actually commercial fishing nets. Microplastics, on the other hand, make up 94 percent of the pieces of plastic in the area, but only eight percent of the total mass.

Giving up straws alone, then, will not make a huge difference. To create bigger change in the oceans, we’ll have to dive deeper — like holding commercial fisheries accountable for what they catch, for example. But that doesn’t necessarily mean you should go full defeatist. You should simply be aware that by giving up straws, you will not single-handedly save the world’s marine life.

“Banning straws is about as important as spitting in the wind,” psychologist Robert Gifford told *Grist* reporter Shannon Osaka earlier this month for a piece on Seattle’s straw ban. “But a lot of social psychology research says that if you get people to say yes to a small request, they are more likely to accede to more serious requests.” Like, for example, pressuring the government to enact policy change!