

Write Stuff Artwork Contest

Artwork Title: "Don't Do Drugs Kids"

By: Molly Phelps

The artwork theme I chose for this contest was to represent lung cancer. In everyday life I constantly see people smoking. Whether it's cigarettes, cigars, e-cigarettes, vapes, etc. Even kids my age in high school smoke, and some become so addicted they bring it into class. Everyone who I have ever talked to who smokes always tells me to never start. Not only does it cause massive addiction, but it causes serious damage to your lungs, trachea, mouth, etc from cancer. I have known far too many people and relatives who have suffered from lung cancer, including my Papaw most of all. My papaw died from lung cancer when my dad was only 17 years old, which was before my mom and I even met him. If he had never touched a cigarette in his life he would have been able to see his kids' futures grow, like seeing my dad graduate from high school and start a new family. I would have loved to know who he was and hear all his stories he could have told me about him. Because my Papaw died from smoking cigarettes, it finally convinced my Mamaw to quit smoking too. After he died she never touched a cigarette again because she saw what it did to him and the pain he went through. Smoking of any kind shouldn't be normalized and should definitely never be encouraged through peer pressure and should be seen as a popularity status symbol. But artwork wise, I decided to paint with watercolor because that is my favorite media to use. It helped me blend in the shadows of the skull's features, made smooth blendings of the colors, and really helped make a smoky effect to the cigarette smoke. I wanted to make my painting really unique and popping, but also to show that cigarettes are truly deadly. I wanted to make my painting look like a really eye-catching ad for people to quit smoking so I loved the idea of making a creepy skull with a glaring eye to catch people's attention. Creating this piece was very fun for me and I was able to get it displayed in a glass case for a hallway in my school and a staff member from my school offered to pay me for the piece. I named this piece "Don't do Drugs Kids" because I wanted my audience directed towards students my age since we are so vulnerable to trying drugs for the first time, plus it's a well known phrase too. I am glad I chose to make a painting about lung cancer since this is a very avoidable disease to have and we need to preach to all that smoking is not good in any way, especially since we are in a culture of vaping and smoking e-cigarettes now.