

# Individual Student Contests

## Categories and guidelines

*NOTE: There is a \$1 fee per entry for individual student contests, and entries are limited to **THREE per staff, per category**. Staff members should work with their fellow staffers and adviser to select the three best individual pieces from your staff per category.*

*Entries that do not follow guidelines properly will be disqualified.*

### Judging procedure

Individual categories are designed to recognize outstanding achievement by individual staff members. Please note the descriptions and outlines for all categories. Some categories require the submission of three pieces of work, some require one. All entries will be judged on accuracy, completeness, fairness, creativity, clarity, precision and appropriate form.

### Editorial Categories

#### NEWSPAPER AND YEARBOOK

- **News Story**

News stories should report but not interpret events that have news value and timeliness to the publication's readers. This category includes advance and follow-up stories.

- **In-depth News Story**

Stories should be in-depth and interpretive, characterized by the use of background information and should inform or instruct the reader. The elements "why" and "how" should be examined. Stories may lack the timeliness of news stories and may lack dependence on a specific news event. Multistory packages (full page spreads, double trucks) on a single topic appearing in a single edition may be submitted as one entry.

- **Feature Story**

Acceptable feature story types include human interest, descriptive, personality profiles, informative and how-to stories.

- **Column**

Columns must carry bylines or other writer identification and appear in every issue or on a regular basis. A series of columns throughout the year stapled together is considered one entry. All columns (entertainment,

humor, etc.) that are not sports columns or editorial commentary (see below) may be entered in this category. Exactly three columns by a single writer qualify as one entry. Single column entries will not be accepted.

- **Opposing Viewpoints Column**

Opposing Viewpoints Columns represent the opinions of two writers on a singular topic. (For example, two writers argue the pros and cons of teen driving restrictions.) Awards will be issued to the publication staff, with recognition to students who have written for the feature. Exactly three opposing viewpoints columns qualify as one entry.

- **House Editorials**

House editorials should represent the opinion of the staff, editors or editorial board on a timely news matter of concern to the school, community, state, nation or world. In addition to providing the viewpoint of the staff, editorials provide facts and reasoning behind the opinion. House editorials are not bylined, signed or initialed, or in any way identified as being the opinion of a writer(s). Exactly three house editorials qualify as one entry.

- **Commentary (Op-Ed Columns)**

Commentary, or op-ed columns, should represent the opinion of the writer on a timely news matter of concern to the school, community, state, nation or world. The writer should provide facts and reasons to back up their opinion. Commentary should be bylined or otherwise identified as being the opinion of a particular writer(s). Exactly three columns authored by the same writer(s) qualify as one entry.

- **Editorial Cartoon**

Cartoons should be submitted by following the guidelines for original drawings under "How to Submit Entries" on page 7. Each editorial cartoon counts as a separate entry.

- **Critical Review**

Reviews should present opinions, observations and evaluations of films, books, television programs, recordings, concerts, plays, restaurants and other things of interest to the paper's market.

- **Sports News Story**

Sports news stories should report but not interpret events that have news value and timeliness to the publication's readers. This category includes advance and follow-up stories. Please note separate category for sports game coverage.

- **Sports game coverage**

On-the-spot coverage of a single sports event (i.e., game, match or meet).

- **Sports Feature Story**

Stories may include human interest, personality profiles, informative and interpretative ("why") features related to sports topics.

- **Sports Column**

Two or more sports columns authored by the same writer(s) qualifies as one entry. Columns must carry bylines or other writer identification, and appear in every issue or on a regular basis. A series of columns on the subject of sports throughout the year stapled together is considered one entry.

- **Headline Writing**

Submit at least three headlines written by the same student. Do not submit label or one-word headlines. Also include the articles for which they serve as headlines.

- **Caption Writing**

Submit captions that have been written for three photographs (all written by the same student). Also include the photographs.

### Editorial Categories

#### LITERARY MAGAZINE

- **Poem**

Original poems with the author's byline may be submitted. If the literary magazine has not been printed by the contest deadline, the adviser must certify the material submitted has been sent to the printer by signing the individual student entry form.

- **Short Story**

Original short stories with the author's byline may be submitted. If the literary magazine has not been printed by the contest deadline, the adviser must certify the material submitted has been sent to the printer by signing the individual student entry form.

# Individual Student Contests

## Categories and guidelines

### Editorial Categories

#### BROADCAST

- **News Package**

One news story (versus sports coverage or feature stories) produced by a broadcast student may be submitted. Entries will be judged on news value, reporting / writing and format. Entries should be submitted on one VHS tape, clearly marked with student's name, story title and name of program / school.

- **In-depth News Package**

This category is for documentary-style packages with emphasis on research, interviewing and analysis.

- **Feature Package**

Acceptable feature package types include human interest, descriptive, personality profiles, informative and how-to stories.

- **Sports Package**

This category can include both sports news and sports feature broadcast packages.

### Visual/Design Categories:

#### NEWSPAPER AND YEARBOOK

- **Sports Photograph**

Any non-portrait photo directly related to sporting events may be entered in this category.

- **News Photograph**

Photos in this category should be non-portrait, non-sports photos of on-the-spot coverage of an event that has news value and timeliness.

- **Feature Photograph**

Photos should be non-portrait, non-sports photos that create a special effect or entertain, appeal to the emotions and accompany a feature story or stand alone on a page with a cutline.

- **Photo Essay**

This category is for descriptive stories that are accompanied by numerous photographs -- the story and photographs must be from the same student. Submit the full page, including the headlines, copy, photos and captions. The entry will be judged on the quality of the photographs, copy and layout.

- **Information Graphic**

This category includes artwork or

information graphics used to enhance any news, feature or sports article. Submit tear sheet showing how the graphic was used with the original.

- **Double-truck layout/design**

(For newspapers ONLY)

Centerspread layouts will be judged on content, design, originality and overall use of space.

- **Page design**

(For yearbooks ONLY)

One or two pages may be submitted. Layouts will be judged on content, design, originality, creativity and overall use of space.

### Visual/Design Categories:

#### ALL PRINT PUBLICATIONS

- **Illustration**

This category is for hand-generated artwork created by a single student. Non-editorial cartoons from newspapers are accepted in this category. Illustrations that are part of information graphics should NOT be entered in this category.

- **Photo Illustration**

Photoillustrations (photos manipulated for artistic purpose or to illustrate an idea) fall into this category. Submit tear sheet showing how the graphic was used with the original.

- **Advertising Design**

This category includes student-designed and student-written advertisements. Judging will be based on originality, creativity, design, appeal and perceived effectiveness. Submit the entry on its tearsheet from the newspaper (or a copy of the yearbook page on which it falls) and designate the ad with neat markings.

- **Cover design/artwork**

(For lit mags ONLY)

This category includes hand or computer-generated artwork or photography used on the cover of a literary magazine. Submit copy of the literary magazine cover and copies of the original artwork. If the literary magazine has not been printed by the contest deadline, the adviser must certify the material submitted has been sent to the printer by signing the individual student entry form.

### HOW TO SUBMIT ENTRIES:

Each GSPA member STAFF may submit THREE entries per category. Please check with your fellow staffers and adviser before submitting your entry.

Each writing entry must be clipped out of the publication it appeared in and pasted neatly on a sheet of unlined 8 1/2 x 11 white paper. Please place only one story, column, etc. to each sheet. For large entries, fold the entry to fit the entry form. Entries for magazines and overall design may be oversized. A disk copy is not required.

A story, photo or illustration may be submitted in only one category.

Original photographs and drawings should accompany the entries in the categories of photography, photo illustrations, editorial cartoons and illustrations.

Mount the original on mat board (8 1/2 x 11 preferably) for protection. Attach a copy of the printed version of the entry including cutline and showing how the photo, cartoon or illustration was used. The printed version may be pasted on the same board as the original, or it may be on a separate paper or board and attached to the originals.

Make copies of the entry form on page 8, fill it out and attach one entry form to each entry.

Due to the volume of entries received, GSPA will return entries only when accompanied with a self-addressed, stamped envelope.