HIGH SCHOOL JOURNALISM AWARDS 2024
45TH YEAR

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING ENTRIES

*NOTE: Please follow these instructions carefully. Entries that do not comply with these procedures are **subject to disqualification**.*

If you produce only a news website, you still may enter all categories except 1 and 14, which are unique to printed newspapers. If you produce both a printed newspaper and a news website, you must choose entries from one or the other for the categories you enter.

1. All entries must have been published in your high school newspaper and/or posted on your high school news website during the 2023-24 school year. For print entries, **submit a complete tear sheet** for EACH entry in EACH category. Mark the corners of the story or column with a highlighter so judges will know which item is being entered. (A tear sheet is the entire printed page on which the story or photo appeared.) Please do not send clippings. We need tear sheets that show the name and date of publication. You may submit photocopies of the pages you are entering as long as they include the date of publication. You also may submit proofs of an upcoming edition if it will be published before the end of the current school year.

   For digital entries, submit a link via email to hsjournalismawards@reviewjournal.com. The link must be from your student news website, and it must have a post date and time.

2. For photo entries, submit a link from your news website, or send a glossy print or a good computer printout for each entry along with a tear sheet of the page on which the photo ran in the newspaper.

3. In the **Best Newspaper competition (Category 1)**, submit the entire copy of the best edition you published between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2023, and the best edition you published during the first months of 2024. Only one entry per high school is allowed in this category.

4. For the **Best News Website (Category 2)**, submit a statement that includes the following information:
   • The URL for the website.
   • A description of the staff involved in producing the website.
   • Details of who creates the page designs for the website.
   • A summary of what you are trying to accomplish with your website.
   • How your website differs from your printed school newspaper, if you publish a newspaper.
   • How often you update the website.
   • 10 links that highlight the depth and excellence of content produced during the current school year.

5. You do not need to enter every category to be eligible for awards.

6. **For paper entries, STAPLE (do not clip) a 3x5 card to each entry, giving the following information:**
   - **Category number and name.**
   - **Student's name. (If more than one student is responsible for an entry, such as in the layout category, include all names.)**
   - **Name of the school newspaper.**
   - **School name.**
   - **Packet of all paper entries should be mailed or delivered together to the Review-Journal.**

7. **For digital entries, provide the following information in the email to hsjournalismawards@ reviewjournal.com:**
   - **Category number and name in the email subject line.**
   - **Category number and name in the body of the email message.**
   - **Student's name. (If more than one student is responsible for an entry, such as in the layout category, include all names.)**
   - **Name of the school newspaper/website.**
   - **School name.**

   IMPORTANT NOTE: While paper entries should be sent together, digital entries should be entered separately.

8. **VERY IMPORTANT:** Submit a list of all entries, including the category numbers and names of students entered in each category. This list can be sent via email or sent on paper with paper entries.

CATEGORIES:

Listed below are the categories for entries and the general criteria used by our editors in judging. ***Each school may submit no more than TWO ENTRIES in each category except where otherwise indicated.*** The entries in any category may be by the same student, but we encourage you to submit the work of different students. All entries MUST have been published during the 2023-24 school year.

1. **Best newspaper.**
   This award recognizes the best high school newspaper in Clark County, regardless of the size of the print edition. Submit the entire copy of the best edition you published between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2023, and the best edition you published during the first months of 2024. Only one entry per high school is allowed.

   Criteria: appeal and interest to high school audience; quality of writing and editing; relevance of story topics; general organization and appearance; depth of editorials and commentary; use of photos; and advertising enterprise.

2. **Best news website.**
   This award recognizes the best high school news website in Clark County. The website must be the product of journalism students.
   To enter this category, submit a statement that includes the following information:
   - The URL for the website.
   - A description of the staff involved in producing the website. Include the names of those students who are most responsible for the site.
   - Details of who creates the page designs for the website.
   - A summary of what you are trying to accomplish with your website.
   - How your website differs from your printed school newspaper, if you publish a newspaper.
   - How often you update the website.
   - 10 links that highlight the depth and excellence of content produced during the current school year.

Judging: **Our judges will evaluate your live site on dates they choose.**
Criteria: appeal and interest to high school audience; creative use of the Internet to communicate with readers; quality of writing and editing; relevance of story topics; general organization and appearance; depth of editorials and commentary; use of photos and video; and advertising enterprise.

3. First Amendment.
This award recognizes the high school newspaper or news website that most effectively upheld the principles of the First Amendment and the rights of student journalists during the school year. Submit stories, editorials and/or columns that best demonstrate the newspaper's efforts to promote and/or use First Amendment freedoms. If your entry involves work you were not allowed to print or post, please submit the stories, columns, etc., that were not published. Include a letter detailing challenges faced, actions taken and results accomplished. Your entry could represent efforts on one story or a yearlong battle for press freedom. One entry per school.

4. Best editorial.
Criteria: significance, impact, importance to readers, quality of writing, effectiveness of arguments, call to action.
IMPORTANT: Editorials should express the **opinion of the newspaper and have no named author.**
Individual writers' opinions should be entered in Category 5.

5. Opinion writing.
Criteria: originality, quality of writing, style.
Each high school may enter the work of two students. Submit the best column or opinion for each. This may be the best of a regularly appearing column, a one-time column or a pro-con commentary by two writers.

6. Best illustration.
This category recognizes excellence in student artwork created for the newspaper or news website. It may illustrate a story or it may stand alone.
Criteria: originality and effectiveness, quality of work, artistic ability, impact on readers.
This may be humorous or serious artwork. You do not need to submit the original artwork.

7. Best editorial cartoon.
Criteria: originality and effectiveness in illustrating an opinion or making an editorial point, artistic ability, impact on readers.
You do not need to submit the original artwork.

8. Best sports news story.
Criteria: significance to readers, timeliness, quality of reporting, quality of writing, effective use of quotes, objectivity.
Stories submitted in this category should cover breaking sports news events such as a game.

9. Best sports feature.
Criteria: originality of topic, enterprise displayed, depth of research, significance to readers, quality of writing.
This category is for profiles and looks at sports issues, trends or developments.

10. Best news story.
Criteria: significance to readers, timeliness, quality of reporting, quality of writing, impact of lead, effective use of quotes, balance.
Stories submitted in this category should cover breaking news events.

11. **Best news feature story.**
   Criteria: originality of topic, enterprise displayed, depth of research, significance to readers, quality of writing.
   This category is for stories that take a deeper look at current issues, developments or controversies.

12. **Best feature story.**
   Criteria: originality of topic, enterprise displayed, entertainment value or usefulness of information, quality of writing.
   This category is for human interest and lifestyle stories.

13. **Best entertainment story.**
   Criteria: originality of topic, enterprise displayed, entertainment value or usefulness of information, quality of writing.
   This category is for stories on theater, vocal and instrumental music of all varieties, television and the movies and the arts in general. Students can enter news stories or reviews.

14. **Best Page One design. (printed paper only)**
   Criteria: quality of design, judgment in selection of items for the page, effective use of photos and art, impact and accuracy of headlines.
   Submit your best Page One. Limit: one entry per high school, regardless of size or style of print edition.

15. **Best headline.**
   Criteria: accurate summary of the main point of the story, column or editorial; attention grabbing ability.
   Submit the two best headlines of the year from any section of your newspaper or news website.

16. **Best advertisement. (print or Web)**
   Criteria: effectiveness of key idea, quality of headline and body copy, design, layout and illustrations. The advertisement design must be the original creation of a member of your newspaper staff, however he/she may use other sources, such as clip art, as components of the ad.
   Submit a copy of the student's artwork and a copy of the ad as it appeared in the newspaper or on the website.

PHOTO NOTE: For Categories 17-20, submit a glossy print or a good computer print for each entry along with a tear sheet of the page on which the photo ran in the newspaper, or a link to the page on your student news website where it appears.

17. **Best sports photo.**
   Criteria: news value, originality, imagination, technical quality, impact.

18. **Best news photo.**
   Criteria: news value, originality, imagination, technical quality, impact.

19. **Best feature photo.**
   Criteria: originality, imagination, technical quality.

20. **Best photo illustration.**
   Criteria: originality, creative application to the story or feature, imagination, technical quality.

VIDEO NOTE: For Categories 21-25, submit a link to a video on a student news website or a video or social media platform. The link or the page the video appears on must show the date the video was posted.

21. **Best Digital Video Storytelling.**
    Criteria: This award honors strong, creative news storytelling through digital video, including animation. Quality of photos, video, interviews, graphics, studio work, narration, writing and delivery.

22. **Best Student-Produced Newscast.**
    Criteria: Newscast must be fully produced by students. If any outside b-roll or assets are used, proper credit must be provided. Quality of photos, video, interviews, graphics, studio work, narration, writing and delivery.

23. **Best On-Air Talent (Solo/Duo).**
    Criteria: This can be a reporter package or a newscast anchored by one or more students. Minumum length of 1 minute, maximum length of 5 minutes to be considered. Quality of photos, video, interviews, graphics, studio work, narration, writing and delivery.

24. **Best Editing.**
    Criteria: Editing for a single video, newscast or show. Editing should demonstrate a variety of techniques and have clean execution. There should be no errors, such as jump cuts or frames of black. Minimum length of 30 seconds, maximum length of 3 minutes.

25. **Best Social Media Engagement.**
    Criteria: Best use of social media to share campus news. Entry consists of a minumum of 3 posts and a maximum of 5 posts. No minimum follower requirements. Post must show date and time stamp and remain accessible on platform.

MOST VALUABLE STAFFER AWARDS

The Review-Journal recognizes the most valuable staffer at each high school newspaper every year. The journalism adviser for each school nominates the **ONE STUDENT** he/she believes should receive this recognition. The nomination should include a one-paragraph description of the student's contributions to the school paper and/or website. **PLEASE SUBMIT ONLY ONE NAME FOR YOUR SCHOOL.** If you nominate more than one student, we will call and ask you to make a choice. This award is meant to honor the single most valuable staffer. We rely on the judgment of the journalism advisers.

Advisers also should send a digital photo of the most valuable staffer to hsjournalismawards@ reviewjournal. com. Be sure to type "MVP photo" in the subject field of the e-mail.

NOTE TO JOURNALISM ADVISERS:
We appreciate your efforts in helping us recognize talented student journalists. If you have any questions about the contest, please email hsjournalismawards@reviewjournal.com. Thank you.

DEADLINE:
Entries must be emailed or arrive at the RJ newsroom by 5pm March 29, 2024. The High School Journalism Awards will be presented in a streaming video in May at reviewjournal.com and the Review-Journal's YouTube channel. The date of the video presentation is to be determined.

(DON'T FORGET TO SUBMIT A LIST OF ALL YOUR ENTRIES.)