

NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR OFFICIAL APPLICATION

Co-sponsored by N.C. Scholastic Media Association, N.C. Press Foundation and Journalism Education Association. Questions? Go to jea.org

The state winner will receive a \$2,000 scholarship and will be eligible to compete in the national JEA contest. The national winner will receive a \$5,000 scholarship. Alternates in each contest also receive scholarships.

NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL, LAST) _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____ HOME PHONE NUMBER _____

PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S) NAME(S) _____

SCHOOL NAME _____

SCHOOL ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

SCHOOL PHONE _____ SCHOOL FAX _____

ADVISER'S NAME _____

ADVISER'S EMAIL ADDRESS _____ ADVISER'S PHONE NUMBER _____

HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER _____

NEWSPAPER STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

How long have you been involved in journalism? _____

Media names and years you worked on them _____

On a separate piece of paper, answer the following two questions:

- Has any of your work been used by the professional media? If yes, please explain.
- List colleges you are considering attending in order of preference. If you have definitely decided which school you will attend, list only that college.
- Optional Questions: What area of journalism and mass communication is your career goal? Do you plan to enroll this year in a university journalism degree program?

Include in your portfolio at least one issue of your newspaper or magazine, or photocopies of relevant spreads from your yearbook (not the entire book) so the judges can see the context of your work. One audio or video tape (CD, DVD, Mini DV) should accompany an entry that focuses on broadcast work. Time is limited to 15 minutes.

Portfolio Checklist:

- Official application
- Self-analytical evaluation of your "journalistic life," using your most creative form
- Official transcript
- Action photo of you doing something journalistic (i.e. interviewing someone, taking a photograph, designing a page, doing a broadcast standup or talking to your staff.)
- Three or four letters of recommendation from your adviser, other teachers who know your leadership and journalistic abilities, and practitioners with whom you have worked. A letter from the principal is desirable, but not absolutely necessary.
- Samples of your work carefully selected to show your quality and diversity of reporting, writing, photography, design, broadcast, online media, etc.
- Self-addressed, padded, stamped envelope large enough to hold your portfolio, if you want it returned

Preparing Your Portfolio:

- Entry material should not exceed 46 pages one-sided or 23 two-sided pages with application materials not to exceed an additional 10 pages as follows:
 - Application
 - Transcript (1-2 pages). This should be opened and presented as part of the portfolio.
 - Personal photo (1 page)
 - Self-analytical essay (1+ pages)
- Plastic sheet protectors are acceptable. All letters should be opened and included as part of the 46 pages.
- The pages should be inserted into a three-ring binder designed to hold 8 1/2 x 11-inch paper.
- Some ideas to get started on the self-analytical evaluation: How do you feel about journalism? How did you get started in journalism? What have you contributed to journalism? What have you had to go through to achieve? What are your journalism plans for the future? The evaluation should be long enough for the judges to reach a decision as to your creative qualifications and short enough not to be redundant.
- Samples of work should be carefully selected. Provide judges with a good cross section of your best work rather than everything ever produced. Date, name of publication and relevance should be on the page with each sample.
- Include samples showing one or more of the following characteristics. They should be grouped according to what they represent, and these groupings should be labeled:
 1. Skilled and creative use of media content — writing, production, photography, etc.
 2. Inquiring mind and investigative persistence resulting in in-depth study or studies of issues important to the local high school audience, high school students in general or society.
 3. Courageous and responsible handling of sensitive issues — local or societal — despite threat or imposition of censorship.
 4. Variety of journalistic experiences, each handled in a quality manner - newspaper, yearbook, broadcast, photography, Web design, other design work, community and other outside-of-school journalistic work, etc.
 5. (OPTIONAL) Sustained and commendable work with community media — examples of any additional work in any format can be included here.
- Photocopies of letters, clippings and art are acceptable; however, original prints of photographs should accompany entries based on published pictures. (Note: PDFs are recommended instead of clippings.)

**Send your complete portfolio to NCSMA, 284 Carroll Hall, UNC-Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3365.
The portfolio should be postmarked by Feb. 15.**