



Fall 2026 Digital Contests

Database is now open for submissions - instructions below

Quick turn prompts have been updated in this document

Quick turn entries due by Friday, Sept. 18 by 11:59 p.m.

Entries in all other categories due by Thursday, Sept. 24 by 11:59 p.m.

We are excited to announce our Fall 2026 Digital Contests. We welcome member publications/programs to submit up to five entries per category (unless otherwise noted). Each submission costs \$8 (unless otherwise noted below), which will be billed to your publication after the submission deadline.

Non-member publications/programs will also be invoiced \$30 for an annual membership.

Publications/programs with an outstanding balance from the spring may be required to bring their accounts current prior to submitting entries.

Entries will be evaluated against submissions statewide, with students eligible to earn All-Florida, Excellent or Honorable Mention ratings. Each district director will determine which awards will be announced at their district workshop - it may be just All-Florida - or it may be All-Florida, Excellent and Honorable Mention. Certificates will be posted to the FSPA website for printing and sharing.

We will then announce statewide Best of the Best winners in each category.

Students should belong to the staff under which their work is being entered. **Publications should not submit work under another publication's account.** Middle schools are encouraged to enter all categories; Best of the Best winners will be named at both the middle and high school level.

This contest is meant to measure the word of students, not of computers. AI is increasingly integrated into the tools and software used in the creative process. Students may use AI for backend functions such as cleaning up audio, but it should not create the substantive original content of an entry. AI should not be the author of your work.

Our fall contest has 25 categories. We also sponsor spring digital contests with more than 90 categories.

01. Yearbook Preliminary Theme Package — Submit up to five attachments outlining your working 2027 yearbook theme. Can be visual and verbal elements. Can just be notes. The goal here is to get you feedback from award-winning advisers ASAP to help you shape the upcoming book. Submit PDF attachments that include samples such as drafts of your cover, title page, endsheets, opening, dividers, themed mods, etc. If you are missing some elements, that's fine. We welcome you to provide what you

have for timely, actionable feedback. You may also choose to submit a public link to your files in a public Dropbox or OneDrive file. (One entry per publication, \$10 entry fee)

02. Yearbook Back to School Spread — Submit a new double-page spread based on coverage of the start of the school year.. Do not submit a 2026 yearbook spread. Submit as a single PDF document.

03. Deadline Module — Create a module – 5 inches wide x 7 inches tall – all about a prominent tradition at your school. All content should be generated during the contest window. Submit as a PDF. **Due by Sept. 18.**

04. Literary Magazine Spread — Create a new double-page literary magazine spread that includes original photography or artwork and prose or poetry. Do not submit a spread from your 2026 publication.

05. Deadline Fiction — Compose a short story about a seemingly serious student who wants to pursue a career as a stand-up comedian. Keep it under 800 words. Submit as a PDF. **Due by Sept. 18.**

06. Newspaper/News magazine Opinion Page/Spread — Submit an opinion page or spread created this school year. Both the design and content will be evaluated. Submit as a PDF.

07. Entertainment Podcast — Create a 7:00-8:00 podcast that provides coverage of arts and entertainment on your campus and/or in your community. Publish online and submit a URL link.

08. Deadline Broadcast News Package — Create a 2:30-3:00 news package about homework. Publish your video to YouTube or Vimeo and submit a link. **Due by Sept. 18.**

09. Broadcast Sports Package – Present a max 3:00 sports package about a topic of interest on your campus or in your community. It should be specifically aimed at your school-aged audience. Publish your video to YouTube or Vimeo and submit a link.

10. Broadcast Show Opening – Submit a new broadcast show opening created this school year. Be sure to adhere to all applicable copyright laws. Max time 0:45. Publish to YouTube or Vimeo and submit a link.

11. Deadline Written Sports Story – This year, the FHSA developed a new “[Open Division](#)” that will place the top eight schools in the state into their own playoff bracket in various sports. Localize that story with voices from your own campus. **Due by Sept. 18.**

12. Written Profile Story – Write a profile about a student or staff member at your school. The profile must be from this school year - do not submit something created previously. Under 800 words. Submit as a PDF.

13. First Day of School Photo – Let’s see your best First Day of School photo. It must have been taken on the first day of school. Submit as a JPG.

14. Sports Action Photo — Submit a candid photo of sports action taken since Aug. 1. Submit as a JPG.

15. Principal Portrait Photo — Submit a planned photo of your principal/head of school taken this school year. Submit as a JPG.

16. Deadline Photo Challenge — Take a series of photos to showcase a sequence of events such as a “how to” or “timeline.” You should have 3-5 photos all taken by students during the contest window. The images should then be added to a single page with a headline and complete captions. **Due by Sept. 18.**

17. Deadline Adviser Photo Challenge — **(For advisers only)** Take a series of photos to showcase a sequence of events such as a “how to” or “timeline.” You should have 3-5 photos all taken during the contest window. The images should then be added to a single page with a headline and complete captions. **Due by Sept. 18.**

18. Hype Video – Create a max 1:00 “hype video” inspired by those played before starting lineups at a sporting event. But for your subject, showcase a department or other team of adults such as the Math Department, Guidance Department, Student Nutrition Staff, etc. Be sure to adhere to copyright laws and use only royalty-free or original music. Publish to YouTube or Vimeo and submit a public weblink.

19. Deadline Illustration – The start of the NFL season also marks the return of Fantasy Football. Create an original, hand-drawn illustration that could accompany a magazine feature story about the popularity of that activity among young people. You may draw on paper and scan or draw using a tablet. Submit as a PDF or JPG. **Due by Sept. 18.**

20. Broadcast Election Commentary – With Florida set to elect a new governor and a host of other leaders, create a max 2:30 broadcast commentary about the importance of voting and civic engagement. Submit as a public YouTube or Vimeo weblink

21. Social Media Infographic – Plan and design an infographic suitable for use on a student media social media account. It may be either static or animated. Submit as a PDF or link.

22. Food Review Page – Create a full page in which you review and rank products such as the area’s best chicken tenders, the top Halloween candies, the best cupcakes. Take your pick. Judges are looking for sharp writing, solid visuals and eye-catching, original design. Submit as a PDF

23. Short Film: Comedy – Submit an original max 4:00 comedic film created since the start of this school year. Publish to YouTube or Vimeo and submit a weblink. \$10 entry fee.

24. Short Film: Action – Submit an original max 4:00 action film created since the start of this school year. Publish to YouTube or Vimeo and submit a weblink. \$10 entry fee.

25. Quick Turn Short Film Challenge – Create a 1:45-2:00 scene that takes place with a nervous character standing up to deliver a speech while his mind is racing with dozens of other thoughts. Publish to YouTube or Vimeo and submit a weblink. **Due Sept. 18.**

Joe Humphrey | FSPA Contest Coordinator | contests@floridascholasticpress.com

Submitting and managing contest entries

1. Go to <http://betternewspapercontest.com>
2. In the top menu, select “Contestant Login”
3. Select the “Contestant Manager” tab and “**FSPA Fall 2026 Digital Contests**” on the left menu (It’s near the bottom).

4. Then, on the right menu, select your publication. They are listed by "School, Publication." If your organization is not listed, skip down **on this document** to the "HELP! I can't access the database" section.
5. The password is the same you used in the spring. If you did not enter last spring or cannot remember your password, see the "HELP! I can't access the database" section below on this page.
6. Please update your contact information to ensure we have the correct name, address, phone number and email address for the current adviser.
7. For first-time users, after uploading a few entries, you will receive an email asking you to confirm your email address. You will be unable to upload additional entries until you've completed this important security step. We strongly suggest you make an effort to clear this hurdle ASAP because there will be no extensions granted for entries and sometimes that email can get caught by a spam filter. School email addresses are especially prone to getting these emails stuck and sometimes advisers need to resort to a Gmail address that will let that email through.

Navigating the entry form

1. Once you've logged in successfully, go to "My Contest" in the top menu and select "Submit Entry."
 2. Select GENERAL for "Division"
 3. Then select the category you want to enter.
 4. Under headline or title, provide a headline or description for each entry.
 5. **VERY IMPORTANT NOTE FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL** -- For entries created by middle school students, the entry must begin with MS. This will allow us to provide accurate judging on those entries since we do not have any middle school specific categories.
 - Follow the instructions for submitting specific types of files. **DO NOT submit Word docs**; DO NOT attempt to attach audio or video files. If you are providing a LINK for work (to Google Drive, YouTube or another site), the link must be public.
 - Who should be credited: Enter the names of up to six students. If more than six students contributed to an entry, enter "Staff" for the entry name. Please do not type student names in all lowercase or all caps.
- Entries may ask you to respond to a RECAPTCHA.

Managing entries

- Once you've uploaded content, you can view and edit your entries at any time by going to the top left menu "my contest" and selecting "manage entries."
- This screen will allow you to see all of your entries at a glance. You're able to click on any file you uploaded to review it or any link you provided to test it. On the right side of each submission, select "edit" to change an entry; "disable" if you wish to keep an entry in the database but not submit it and "delete" to eliminate an entry from the database.
- NOTE: Once we have confirmed your entry, you can only DISABLE it. So if you submit something and decide you no longer wish to enter it, you would need to click DISABLE.

If you delete or disable a category entry, that category will reappear in the pull down menu on the page where you submit entries.

- Please make sure you test the attachments and links to ensure the content is viewable by judges.

HELP! I can't access the database...

• If you are unable to log-in, send an email with the subject line DATABASE to contests@floridascholasticpress.com. Make sure your name, your publication name, school and your email address are included in the message, along with an explanation. Again, provide us with specific information here so we can help you! You WILL receive a response within 24 hours, and most likely significantly faster. **DO NOT use the help feature on the website**, which goes to our vendor, not us, and will result in a delayed response.

Billing

You can keep track of your entry fees in the system. After the contest window closes, an invoice will be posted onto your account on the FSPA website.