



# The Awards for Excellence in Audio

## BEST NEWS PODCAST

Thank you for participating as a judge in the 2025 Awards for Excellence in Audio; The Ambies! Welcome to the second round of Blue Ribbon Panel judging!

In this round, you will listen to a set of entries that have been pre-screened and deemed potentially worthy of an Ambies nomination.

Like in the last round, we ask that you listen to each entry and then rank that submission on a 1-7 (7 highest) scale in a number of quality and craftsmanship areas.

The top nominees in each category will be determined by results from this round.

The details of these criteria are listed below.

### EVALUATION AREAS:

#### **Engagement 20%**

How engaging did you find this episode?  
(not very) 1-2-3-4-5-6-7 (very)

#### **Craftsmanship 15%**

A significant amount of craftsmanship was dedicated to creating this episode.  
(disagree) 1-2-3-4-5-6-7 (agree)

#### **Hosts 15%**

The hosts were knowledgeable and/or relatable.  
(disagree) 1-2-3-4-5-6-7 (agree)

#### **Noteworthiness 30%**

This podcast stands out from the pack, in a good way.  
(disagree) 1-2-3-4-5-6-7 (agree)

#### **Subject Matter Presentation 20%**

This podcast gets both the facts and the form right

(disagree) 1-2-3-4-5-6-7 (agree)

### Listening Notes

As you listen, you must set aside your personal preferences and judge from the perspective of a neutral listener. Assume that you are listening to a podcast because this is a topic of interest to you. Beyond listening to the entire episode for entries up to 1 hour in length, we ask that you not vary the playback speed in any way.

Listen for the highest quality: a polished, professional program coupled with a clean, clear technical production. We recommend that you either keep notes as you listen, or complete the judge survey

### Evaluation & Timeline

To access your assigned entries and attendant evaluation forms, please go to:

<https://ambies.awardsengine.com>

log in: your email address

password: Podcast2025!

You will see your assigned entries listed, and will be able to listen either through this platform, or by finding the podcast on your preferred listening platform. Entries not only list the season and episode of the submission, but typically also include a link to the podcast online. If you have any trouble finding this information, please reach out to Emma Harris ([emma@thepodcastacademy.com](mailto:emma@thepodcastacademy.com)).

**Your results for this round of listening are due on February 7th.** If you will not be able to complete your listening in the time allotted and/or if you see a podcast on your list that poses a conflict of interest as a judge, please let Emma Harris ([emma@thepodcastacademy.com](mailto:emma@thepodcastacademy.com)) know right away – you will be asked to skip the evaluation for any episode posing a conflict of interest.

If you have questions, concerns, or issues with the listening platform just let us know by emailing Emma Harris [emma@thepodcastacademy.com](mailto:emma@thepodcastacademy.com) — she'll help you out, or connect you with the appropriate person to troubleshoot your problem.