The Awards for Excellence in Audio

Best Politics or Opinion Podcast

Thank you for participating as a judge in the 2025 Awards for Excellence in Audio; The Ambies! Welcome to the initial screening round!

In this round, you will listen to a select set of entries in your category. For episodes that are 1 hour or shorter, you must listen to each entry in its entirety and then rank that submission on a 1-7 (7 highest) scale in a number of areas ranging from Engagement to Craftsmanship, and a variety of criteria in between.

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%
Whether I agree or not, the hosts and guests convey their opinions in an engaging and clear way.
(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 immediately after you finish each episode.