



The Dr. Jane Blystone Pennsylvania Student Journalist of the Year Guidelines and Instructions

Thank you for entering the 2025 Pennsylvania Student Journalist of the Year contest. We admire your dedication to student journalism and appreciate your hard work.

Please read over this sheet prior to uploading your portfolio. At any time if you have questions, please reach out to JEA's Pennsylvania State Director, Cyndi Hyatt, at chyatt@paschoolpress.org.

1. You must be a senior to enter the contest and your school must be a member of the Pennsylvania School Press Association (PSPA).
2. If you win and want to enter the national contest, your adviser must be a member of the Journalism Education Association (JEA).
3. Fill out the [entry form](#). Make sure to check ALL links before final submission.
4. Make sure your portfolio and submission include all required materials.
5. PSPA must receive your portfolio by midnight **Feb. 17, 2024**.
6. Most students create a website for their portfolio, but this is not a requirement. If you do not have a website, you can put all your documents into a Google folder and share the link with us on the entry form.
7. Your TRANSCRIPT and LETTERS of RECOMMENDATION may be uploaded separately and do not have to be on your portfolio's website. (See entry form)
8. It is strongly recommended that you look at [prior winners' portfolios](#). Do not stress out if you are not a superstar in every category; that's impossible!
9. But make sure that you fulfill all requirements. When your portfolio is judged, it is based on the JEA rubric which can be found toward the bottom of [this page](#).
10. Winners will be announced by **Feb. 24**; we will have a first place winner and a runner up; both will receive recognition.
11. If you advance to the [national competition](#), you will have until **March 10** to submit your portfolio. You may make changes and improvements to your PA portfolio based on judges' comments and recommendations.
12. The Pennsylvania winner is invited to attend and will be recognized at the state finals at Penn State University on **April 1**.

