

NISPA NEWS MEDIA CONTEST SUBMISSION GUIDELINES: 2024-25

Please read these instructions regarding deadlines, categories, and entries carefully. These guidelines **MUST** be followed or your entries will be disqualified.

ONLINE CONTEST FOR 2024-25: Entries (website links, PDFs of pages) will be submitted using either the [INDIVIDUAL CONTEST FORM](#) or the [OVERALL FORM](#). Entries should have been published either in print or online between Aug. 15, 2024 and Jan. 14, 2025.

HOW TO ENTER THE CONTEST: Entry submissions must either be (1) accessible links to PDFs or published pages (NOT GOOGLE DOCS, DRAFTS, etc.) or (2) URLs to pages on news media websites. Please watch these videos if you need instruction on how to complete your submissions:

- [How to submit individual entries \(print or web\).](#)
- [How to combine PDF pages for overall submissions.](#)
- [How to submit overall entries \(print or web\).](#)

INDIVIDUAL CATEGORIES: Each newspaper/website staff may also submit one individual entry per school in each of the following categories:

- **BLOGGER/COLUMNIST:** (Submit 3 blogs/columns by one writer (web or print)): Category is for writers who publish three or more opinion pieces in print/on the web.
- **BREAKING NEWS:** (one individual story, web only): Entries are news stories published on deadline regarding a breaking news event. Can be school or community related.
- **EDITORIAL CARTOON:** (one eye-appealing cartoon or panel, web or print): Cartoon illustrates a point being made in an editorial, column, or other story. NOTE: This is not merely an illustration; it must have a point of view and be able to stand on its own without an article for context.
- **EDITORIAL WRITING:** (one individual story, web or print) Must be a single editorial expressing the opinion of the editorial board. Editorials may be written by one person, with no byline.
- **FEATURE WRITING:** (one individual story, web or print) All types of features are eligible here, but profiles should be submitted under profile writing below.
- **GRAPHICS** (one illustration, digital or hand-drawn, web or print): An illustration created by one or more student(s) either by hand or computer which complements a story or page theme.
- **MULTIMEDIA PACKAGE:** (one individual package that uses two or more types of media- such as text/video; text/podcast; text/photo gallery) This category allows for entries where multiple forms of media are dedicated to one particular story/event.
- **NEWS WRITING:** (one individual story, web or print): Breaking news should be submitted in the category above; this category is more for news feature writing.



- *OPINION WRITING*: (one individual opinion column, web or print): May be a personal or a sports column.
- *PHOTO GALLERY/SLIDESHOW*: (submit 6-20 photos by one photographer from one event, web only) Please stick to the number of photos listed; do not exceed 20 photos.
- *PHOTOGRAPHY*: (one photo, web or print): Category is for just one photo, not a photo gallery. Entries must have been published either in print or online; submissions should be PDFs of pages or links to websites where the photos appear.
- *PROFILE WRITING*: (one individual profile, web or print): Same guidelines as feature writing above -- a profile, however, is a story written about an individual rather than a topic.
- *REVIEW WRITING*: (one individual story, web or print): Category is for any type of review (book, movie, music, restaurant, video game, etc.)
- *SPORTS FEATURE WRITING*: (one individual story, web or print): In-depth story about a sporting event or athlete.
- *SPORTS GAME STORY*: (one individual story, web or print): Stories here cover one event, game, meet, or tournament on deadline for the web or print.
- *TEAM-IN-DEPTH*: (multiple stories, web or print): Two or more stories printed together or as a series and written by more than one author on a specific topic. **NEW**: Please limit this to 7 student journalists.
- *VIDEO PACKAGE* (one news, feature, or sports video, web only): Entries are a single news, sports, or feature video story. The length may vary, but entries should not exceed 4 minutes.

NOTE: Please be sure that, if you submit links to PDF documents, they are **ACCESSIBLE** to the judge. Be sure to watch the video above "How to submit individual entries." If your entries are not accessible, they will not be judged.

NOTE II: Please be sure that the entries match the categories they are submitted under. If the entry does not match the category, it will not be judged.

OVERALL CATEGORY: You may submit (1) your news media website and/or (2) 3 consecutive issues of your print publication for overall judging. Please follow the directions in the videos above for your submissions.

NOTE: If you are submitting both your news media website AND your print publication for judging, fill out the Google form twice: once for your website and once for print.

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE SUBMITTED USING THE INDIVIDUAL OR OVERALL GOOGLE FORM BY JANUARY 14, 2025.

QUESTIONS? Email Dennis Brown at dbrown@district158.org.