

2018-2019 PSPA Student Journalism Contest General Rules and Regulations

1. **Only current member schools may compete.** Each school may enter up to two students in each category. Each student may enter only one category (including carry-in categories 13-15.) Every Level One PSPA Membership comes with three complimentary competition entries; Level Two Memberships come with six. Additional entries cost \$12.00 each per student entering the contests.
2. **No substitutions of any kind will be permitted after registering for the contests.**
3. **Your school does not need to have the publication designated by each category.** For example, a school might not have a literary magazine, but students can still participate in the 10L and 11L categories. **PSPA expects advisers to coach students to compete in the category that best reflects their strengths.**
4. **Students competing in the newspaper, yearbook, and web contests should follow the Associated Press Stylebook rules.** Students may bring/use their own dictionary, thesaurus, stylebook, or personal handheld devices to aid in their contest efforts.
5. **PSPA will supply scratch paper for the contests** so that the students may brainstorm, and we encourage that whole process.
6. Students competing in the broadcast writing category (12B) may use the stopwatch function of a watch or mobile device to time their scripts as accurate timing is vital.
7. Students competing in the Editorial Cartoon contest (8E) or Literary Magazine Stand-Alone Artwork (11L) may bring any dry media art supplies (pencils, pens, markers, etc.) they would ordinarily use for creating artwork. No paints or wet media.
8. **Students competing in the newspaper and yearbook contests will be expected to follow Associated Press Stylebook rules.** Students may use their own dictionary, thesaurus, stylebook, or personal hand-held devices to aid in their efforts. No taking of cell phone pictures permitted during the contests.
9. **The first place winners in each category will advance to the State Finals held at Penn State University in the spring. However, only those who receive an average score of at least 3.0 at any Regional Competition may advance to the State Finals Competition.** To make that clear, only scores equal to or above the listed scores in the following categories may advance to Finals:

15A-21 out of 28	10L-18 out of 24	4Y-18 out of 24
15B-21 out of 28	9E-18 out of 24	3Y-21 out of 28
14NP-27 out of 36	8E-24 out of 32	2Y-21 out of 28
13YP-27 out of 36	7N-21 out of 28	1Y-18 out of 24
12B-27 out of 36	6N-21 out of 28	
11L-18 out of 24	5N-21 out of 28	
9. **Students must be checked into the write-off location by the start of each contest.** Late entrants will not be allowed to compete.
10. **Entrants not following contest rules and guidelines may be disqualified.**
11. **Each student may compete at only one qualifying Regional site per year.**

ADDITIONAL RULES FOR PARTICIPANTS IN CARRY-IN CONTESTS (13YP, 14NP, 15A, 15B)

1. Students submitting a carry-in entry must be in attendance at the Regional contest to qualify for the State Finals.
2. Carry-in entries must have been taken and/or published or aired between June 1, 2017 and October 12, 2018.
3. Students who enter must serve the school newspaper, yearbook, magazine, TV station, or website staff(s).
4. Each carry-in competitor in the photography contests must electronically submit three photographs in their category on this registration form. The photos should reflect the requested criteria for each category. Additionally, each entrant **MUST** bring printed copies of their three submitted photos to the Regional contest (5x7 or 8x10 prints only).
5. All digital photo submissions for carry-in categories must be in JPEG format.
6. **NEW THIS YEAR:** Up to three students may contribute to each video package in contests 15A and 15B.
7. Students must drop off their work by the start of the contest on competition day. No late entries will be accepted.