

2019-2020 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 PSPA Membership comes with five complimentary competition entries. 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. ***No camera function of any phone may be used during the contests.***
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. **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 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

15B-21 out of 28

14NP-27 out of 36

13YP-27 out of 36

12B-27 out of 36

11L-18 out of 24

10L-18 out of 24

9E-18 out of 24

8E-24 out of 32

7N-30 out of 40

6N-30 out of 40

5N-30 out of 40

4Y-18 out of 24

3Y-30 out of 40

2Y-30 out of 40

1Y-12 out of 28

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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.**
 12. **Advisers need to remember to bring the requested photo release forms to registration.** Give you students enough time to get them signed.

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

1. **Students submitting a carry-in entry must be in attendance at the Regional contest to qualify for the State Finals.**
 2. Carry-in photos must have been taken and/or published or aired between March 1, 2018 and October 10, 2019.
 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 the online registration form. The photos should reflect the requested criteria for each category. **New this Year:** You no longer need to bring in printed copies of the pictures on the contest date. YOOHOO!
 5. All digital photo submissions for carry-in categories must be in JPEG format.
 6. Up to three students may contribute to each video package in contests 15BN and 15BF.
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