



Spring 2025 Digital Contests

v3

Updated to include prompts for Quick Turn categories | See pages 5=7

FSPA is excited to announce its latest slate of Spring Digital Contests. This guide also contains information about our various Journalist of the Year awards. Entry fees are listed next to each category. In most categories, publications/programs can enter 5 entries per category. There are others that allow fewer and for photo categories, members can now submit up to 10 entries. Publications/programs must be members to participate in these contests and non-member publications will be billed for membership. Work created since March 1, 2024 is eligible for submission.

UPLOAD INSTRUCTIONS

We utilize the BetterNewspaperContest.com platform to accept entries. If you entered in the fall or last spring, it is the same platform. **This system is now open for entries - and you can find instructions for uploading and managing entries on Page 18 of this document.** Please note the membership database and contest database are two separate systems and member publications/programs need to be manually added to participate in digital contests.

DEADLINES

Friday, Feb. 7 (11:59 p.m.): Quick Turn Contests (Categories 11-27, unless otherwise noted)

Sunday, Feb. 9 (11:59 p.m.): Todd C. Smith Student Journalist of the Year (Category 1)

Sunday, Feb. 23, (11:59 p.m.): Other Journalist of the Year competitions (Categories 2-10)

Friday, Feb. 28 (11:59 p.m.): All other Spring Digital Contests (Categories 28-96)

SCORING

In most categories, work is scored on five criteria, and this guide includes listings of that criteria. Those scores produce ratings: All-Florida, Excellent, Honorable Mention or No Award Given. Judges also select a Best of the Best winner in each category. Judges will identify both middle school and high school Best of the Best winners. **Middle school entries must include “MS-” at the beginning of the entry names so they can be properly identified.**

LAW AND ETHICS

All work must adhere to copyright law. Participants should also ensure they are following the acceptable standards of ethical journalism. The use of AI tools such as ChatGPT in the production of contest entries is strictly prohibited. Students agree that submitted work may appear on FSPA’s website, social media channels and/or educational resources created for use in classrooms and at workshops/conventions.

LOOKING FOR CONVENTION CONTEST DETAILS?

Those are coming in March, after we have completed our Spring Digital Contests. We can’t wait to gather April 3-5 at the Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld.

QUESTIONS?

Reach FSPA Contest Coordinator Joe Humphrey at fspacontests@gmail.com or (813) 380-7195.

Journalist of the Year Awards

A student who applies for the Todd C. Smith Florida Student Journalist of the Year Award (Category 1) is eligible to apply for one of the other journalist of the year categories. Categories 2-8 are open to juniors and seniors. A student may only apply to one category in Categories 2-8. Category 9 is open to freshmen and sophomores. Category 10 is open only to eighth graders.

1) Todd C. Smith Student Journalist of the Year

DUE SUNDAY, FEB. 9

No entry fee; Grade 12 only

Submit a single PDF file that includes links as needed

This is FSPA's top student award. The contest is open to Florida students whose publications belong to FSPA. The first-place winner will receive \$1,000. Runner-up will receive \$600. The third-place winner will receive \$400. The Florida winner will advance to the Journalism Education Association's Journalist of the Year competition. The winning student's adviser must be a member of JEA to compete at the national level.

Entrants, using their publication's account on the platform, will need to submit the following items for consideration. Entrants should consolidate the following items into a single PDF document:

- A weblink to a portfolio based on the criteria that can be found on the JEA website, JEA.org.
- A personal narrative about their scholastic journalism experience (see the published rubric for more info about essay expectations)
- A resume
- A transcript or counselor statement, including journalism classes taken, grades and current GPA
- An action photo of the applicant involved in some aspect of student media
- Up to three letters of recommendation, including one from the publication/program adviser

Feb. 9 at 11:59 p.m. is a firm deadline for this contest. No entries will be accepted after that time. The winners will be announced by March 1 so the first-place winner can make revisions prior to the JEA contest deadline. **The entire application must adhere completely to copyright laws and guidelines.**

The Journalism Education Association's website provides a wealth of information about the Journalist of the Year award, including the same rubric Florida's judges will use, samples of past winners and tips to the applicants. NOTE: There is also an application on the JEA website. That is for the Florida winner to utilize later, so please do not complete it at this time.

Since the winner advances to the national competition, judges use the Journalism Education Association's rubric to evaluate entries in this category. You can find that rubric (and lots of other helpful information) at JEA.org.

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| <p>2) Tom Pierce Photojournalist of the Year \$10 entry fee; 1 entry per publication (Grades 11-12) DUE FEB. 23 Submit as a PDF or weblink</p> <p>Submit a document or weblink that showcases up to 10 entries that exemplify your work as a photojournalist. Include captions and a brief reflection for each image. \$200 prize.</p> | <p><i>JOY contests are judged holistically. Feedback will be provided but no numeric score.</i></p> |
| <p>3) Designer of the Year \$10 entry fee; 1 entry per publication (Grades 11-12) DUE FEB. 23 Submit as a PDF or weblink</p> <p>Submit a portfolio of up to 10 examples that reflect your range of design abilities. Include brief written reflections for each artifact. Artifacts may also include links to broadcast/web work. \$200 prize.</p> | <p><i>JOY contests are judged holistically. Feedback will be provided but no numeric score.</i></p> |
| <p>4) Broadcast Journalist of the Year \$10 entry fee; 1 entry per publication (Grades 11-12) DUE FEB. 23 Submit a weblink <i>and</i> a PDF</p> <p>Submit a video (max 10:00) that showcases your broadcast journalism work. Also submit reflections on each artifact chosen for the portfolio. Specify your contributions to each. \$200 prize.</p> | <p><i>JOY contests are judged holistically. Feedback will be provided but no numeric score.</i></p> |
| <p>5) Writer of the Year \$10 entry fee; 1 entry per publication (Grades 11-12) DUE FEB. 23 Submit as a PDF or weblink</p> <p>Submit a portfolio of up to seven writing samples demonstrating your abilities as a reporter and writer. Include brief written reflections for each sample. \$200 prize</p> | <p><i>JOY contests are judged holistically. Feedback will be provided but no numeric score.</i></p> |
| <p>6) Online Journalist of the Year \$10 entry fee; 1 entry per publication (Grades 11-12) DUE FEB. 23 Submit as a PDF or weblink</p> <p>The award honors excellence in web/social media journalism. Submit a collection (web page or PDF with links) showcasing up to 10 artifacts. Provide a brief reflection for each. \$200 prize</p> | <p><i>JOY contests are judged holistically. Feedback will be provided but no numeric score.</i></p> |
| <p>7) Artist of the Year \$10 entry fee; 1 entry per publication (Grades 11-12) DUE FEB. 23 Submit as a PDF or weblink</p> <p>Submit up to 10 samples of work that best reflects your abilities as an artist. Include brief reflections for each example. The portfolio should be rooted in published/journalistic work. \$200 prize.</p> | <p><i>JOY contests are judged holistically. Feedback will be provided but no numeric score.</i></p> |
| <p>8) Sports Journalist of the Year \$10 entry fee; 1 entry per publication (Grades 11-12) DUE FEB. 23 Submit as a PDF or weblink</p> <p>Submit up to 10 samples of work that best reflects your ability as a sports journalist. Include brief reflections for each example. \$200 prize.</p> | <p><i>JOY contests are judged holistically. Feedback will be provided but no numeric score.</i></p> |

9) Emerging Young Journalist

\$10 entry fee; 1 entry per publication (Grades 9-10)

DUE FEB. 23 | Submit as a PDF or weblink

This award, sponsored by the Tampa Bay Times Fund, recognizes the top freshman or sophomore student journalist. The contest is open to Florida students in grades 9 and 10 whose publications belong to FSPA. The winner will receive free registration to the Summer Journalism Institute at the University of Florida in summer 2024.

Entrants will need to submit the following items for consideration. All items will need to be combined into a single weblink or attachment.

- A portfolio of up to five published works
- A recommendation letter from the student’s adviser
- A recommendation letter from a student leader on the publication
- A 500-word essay by the applicant outlining his/her interest in journalism/media
- A resume

JOY contests are judged holistically. Feedback will be provided but no numeric score.

10) Aspiring Young Journalist

\$10 entry fee; 1 entry per publication (Grade 8)

DUE FEB. 23 | Submit as a PDF or weblink

This award recognizes the state’s top middle school student journalist. The contest is open to Florida students in Grade 8 whose publications belong to FSPA. Applicants should submit the following combined into a single weblink or attachment. One entry per publication. \$100 prize

- Letter of introduction from the applicant
- Up to five examples of the applicant’s journalistic work with a student reflection for each included work.

JOY contests are judged holistically. Feedback will be provided but no numeric score.

Quick Turn Contests

Unless otherwise noted below, entries must be uploaded by Friday, Feb. 7 and all material used in these entries must be generated during the contest window.

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| <p>11) Quick Turn Videography Challenge \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication DUE FEB 7 Submit as a public weblink</p> <p>Create an original 5x5 film – composed of five shots of five seconds each – that tells a story.</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Videography composition Videography technical quality Audio quality Editing/pacing Creativity</p> |
| <p>12) Quick Turn Yearbook Spread \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication DUE FEB 7 Submit as a PDF attachment</p> <p>Create a yearbook spread about the custodians at your school. They're the first to arrive, the last to leave and some of the most vital (but underappreciated) members of a campus.</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Visuals Copy Design Creativity Overall impact</p> |
| <p>13) Quick Turn Cooking Challenge \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication DUE FEB 7 Submit as a public weblink</p> <p>Find the recipe videos on FollowFreshFromFlorida.com for inspiration then find or create a recipe with a featured ingredient of your choice from Florida. Max time 1:00. No talent on screen.</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Audio quality Video quality Editing quality Creativity Overall impact/effectiveness</p> |
| <p>14) Quick Turn Audio PSA \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication DUE FEB 7 Submit as a public weblink</p> <p>Create a :30 or 1:00 radio PSA that promotes the importance of pedestrian safety.</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Creativity Talent Presence Audio quality Call to action/impact Editing quality</p> |
| <p>15) Quick Turn Broadcast Package \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication DUE FEB 7 Submit as a public weblink</p> <p>Create a max 1:30 broadcast news package that localizes the presidential executive order to rename the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America.</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Newsworthiness Use of sources Audio quality Video quality Editing</p> |

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| <p>16) Quick Turn Fiction and Illustration \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication DUE FEB 7 Submit as a single PDF document</p> <p>Write a max 750-word short story and create an original accompanying hand- or computer-drawn illustration based on the title “On the Bright Side.”</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Character development Plot development Artistic quality Artistic originality Visual-verbal connection</p> |
| <p>17) Quick Turn Short Film \$10 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication DUE FEB 14 Submit as a public weblink</p> <p>Create a max 5:00 fictional short film titled “You Cannot Be Serious!?” Pay attention to the punctuation in the title - it was added intentionally to help shape your brainstorming.</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Cinematography Script/story Audio quality Editing quality Originality/creativity</p> |
| <p>18) Quick Turn Sitcom Production \$8 entry fee; up to 1 entry per publication DUE FEB 21 Submit a JPG or PDF</p> <p>Product a 8:00-12:00 pilot episode of a sitcom based on this treatment. You may not match everything exactly as proposed, but your show should capture the spirit of it. Include a main title sequence. Be sure “Based on a Concept by Celine Suarez, Gabriella Molina and Greshel Largaespada” appears within your opening credits or on screen after.</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Cinematography Script/story Audio quality Editing quality Originality/creativity</p> |
| <p>19) Quick Turn Photography Challenge \$8 entry fee; up to 10 entries per publication DUE FEB 7 Submit a JPG or PDF</p> <p>Bubbles. Submit a single image based on that prompt, which you are free to interpret as you wish.</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Effective composition Effective lighting Technical (focus, exposure, color) Creativity Storytelling impact</p> |
| <p>20) Quick Turn Audio Podcast \$10; up to 2 entries per publication DUE FEB 7 Submit a public weblink</p> <p>Create an audio podcast – 7:00-8:00 – about the upcoming opening of Universal Orlando’s Epic Universe theme park.</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Talent presence Script / writing Audio quality Creativity Overall impression</p> |
| <p>21) Quick Turn Literary Magazine Spread \$8; up to 5 entries per publication DUE FEB 7 Submit as a PDF</p> <p>Create a lit mag spread inspired by the theme “You Cannot Be Serious!?” Pay attention to the punctuation in the title - it was added intentionally to help shape your brainstorming.</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Visuals Text Design Originality Overall impact</p> |

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| <p>22) Quick Turn Review (Written) \$8; up to 5 entries per publication DUE FEB 7 Submit a PDF or public weblink</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Writer's voice Evidence of research Proper grammar/style Clear central point Depth of coverage</p> |
| <p>Review the first two episodes of the new animated series "Your Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man," which was released last week on Disney+.</p> | |

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| <p>23) Quick Turn Review (Video) \$8; up to 5 entries per publication DUE FEB 7 Submit a PDF or public weblink</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Talent presence Talent delivery Clear central point Evidence of research Effective use of B-Roll</p> |
| <p>Review the Best Original Song nominees for the 2025 Academy Awards. Since you are reviewing them, use of portions of the songs is a valid fair use. That said, you may want to submit a Google Drive link to avoid your entry getting flagged on YouTube.</p> | |

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| <p>24) Quick Turn Newspaper/Magazine Spread \$8; up to 5 entries per publication DUE FEB 7 Submit a PDF</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Visuals Copy Design Creativity Overall impact</p> |
| <p>Plan, create and edit a newspaper/magazine news spread that could be used by incoming students to better understand the elective course offerings available at your school.</p> | |

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| <p>25) Quick Turn Module \$8; up to 5 entries per publication DUE FEB 7 Submit a PDF</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Visuals Copy Design Creativity Overall impact</p> |
| <p>Plan, create an edit a module - 8 inches tall and 4 inches wide - about students' or staff member's favorite restaurants or foods. Please make sure there are faces and not just food pictures!</p> | |

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| <p>26) Quick Turn Editorial (Written) \$8; up to 5 entries per publication DUE FEB 7 Submit a PDF or public weblink</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Effective introduction Proper grammar/style Clear call to action Effective use of sources Depth of coverage</p> |
| <p>Write an editorial on the recent presidential executive order to rename the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America. An editorial is the result of collaboration and is not written from the "I" point of view.</p> | |

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| <p>27) Quick Turn Cinema Editing Challenge \$10; one entry per publication DUE FEB 9 Submit as a public weblink</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Editing pacing Editing technical quality Establishes mood Effective use of music Creativity</p> |
| <p>Sponsored by EditMentor.com. Please have the adviser or one member of your team email fspacontests@gmail.com to request a link to the footage. Note the deadline change here - now Feb. 9 rather than Feb. 7.</p> | |



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| <p>28) Campus News Story \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a PDF or public weblink</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Effective lead Appropriate grammar/style Objectivity</p> |
| <p>A single written news story about news on your campus. This may also include investigative, in-depth reporting</p> | <p><i>Effective use of sources Newsworthiness/Impact</i></p> |

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| <p>29) Off-Campus News Story \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a PDF or public weblink</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Effective lead Appropriate grammar/style Objectivity</p> |
| <p>A single written news story about an event/issue off campus or one that localizes a local, state, national or international topic. This may also include investigative, in-depth reporting.</p> | <p><i>Effective use of sources Newsworthiness/Impact</i></p> |

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| <p>30) General Feature Story \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a PDF or public weblink</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Effective lead Appropriate grammar/style Use of sensory details</p> |
| <p>A single written feature story (not a profile).</p> | <p><i>Effective use of sources Depth of coverage</i></p> |

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| <p>31) Entertainment Feature \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a PDF or public weblink</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Effective lead Appropriate grammar/style Use of sensory details</p> |
| <p>A single written feature story about an entertainment topic (not a profile).</p> | <p><i>Effective use of sources Depth of coverage</i></p> |

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| <p>32) Student Profile \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a PDF or public weblink</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Effective lead Appropriate grammar/style Use of sensory details</p> |
| <p>A single written profile about a student or group of students. A profile is a feature that gives readers an in-depth glimpse into a person's life. Do not enter sports profiles here - use Category 34.</p> | <p><i>Effective use of sources Depth of coverage</i></p> |

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| <p>33) Non-Student Profile \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a PDF or public weblink</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Effective lead Appropriate grammar/style Use of sensory details</p> |
| <p>A single written profile about a non-student or group of non-students. A profile is a feature that gives readers an in-depth glimpse into a person's life. Do not enter sports profiles here - use Category 34.</p> | <p><i>Effective use of sources Depth of coverage</i></p> |

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| <p>34) Sports Profile \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a PDF or public weblink</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Effective lead Appropriate grammar/style Use of sensory details</p> |
| <p>A written profile about a person or group of people, related to sports.</p> | <p><i>Effective use of sources Depth of coverage</i></p> |

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| <p>35) Sports Game Coverage \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a PDF or public weblink</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Covers basics effectively Clear knowledge of game/sport Proper grammar/style Effective use of sources Depth of coverage</p> |
| <p>A single written story that covers one sporting event.</p> | |

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| <p>36) Sports News/Feature Story \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a PDF or public weblink</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Effective lead Compelling angle Proper grammar/style Effective use of sources Depth of coverage</p> |
| <p>A single written news or feature story about sports; should not be a profile or game story.</p> | |

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| <p>37) Editorial \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a PDF or public weblink</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Effective introduction Proper grammar/style Clear call to action Effective use of sources Depth of coverage</p> |
| <p>A single unsigned editorial that reflects the voice of a publication's staff on an issue of importance. (This is not a personal column.)</p> | |

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| <p>38) Commentary-Campus \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a PDF or public weblink</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Writer's voice Evidence of research Proper grammar/style Clear central point Depth of coverage</p> |
| <p>A personal column that represents the viewpoint of the author about an on-campus topic. Can be humorous or serious.</p> | |

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| <p>39) Commentary-Off-Campus \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a PDF or public weblink</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Writer's voice Evidence of research Proper grammar/style Clear central point Depth of coverage</p> |
| <p>A personal column that represents the viewpoint of the author about an off-campus topic. Can be humorous or serious.</p> | |

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| <p>40) Review Writing \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a PDF or public weblink</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Clear knowledge of genre Writer's voice Evidence of research Proper grammar/style Depth of coverage</p> |
| <p>A critical commentary about a movie, television program, book, restaurant, play, concert, etc. May be written in a non-traditional story form.</p> | |

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| <p>41) Yearbook Copy \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a PDF or public weblink</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Effective lead Fresh, original angle Proper grammar/style Effective use of sources Depth of coverage</p> |
| <p>A single copy block from a content (non-theme) yearbook spread.</p> | |

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| <p>42) Yearbook Theme Copy \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a PDF or public weblink</p> <p>A single copy block from a theme spread (opening, divider, closing) of a yearbook.</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Effective lead Fresh, original angle Proper grammar/style Effective use of sources Depth of coverage</p> |
| <p>43) Poetry \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a PDF or public weblink</p> <p>A single selection of original poetry.</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Use of figurative language Use of figurative language (x2) Clear structure Originality Originality (x2)</p> |
| <p>44) Short Story \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a PDF or public weblink</p> <p>A single fictional short story.</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Engaging introduction Clear structure Narration Character development Originality</p> |
| <p>45) Spot News Photograph \$8 entry fee; up to 10 entries per publication Submit as a JPG or PDF</p> <p>A single image of an event or breaking news. Must be candid / not posed. Editing limited to cropping and standard toning / color correction.</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Effective composition Effective lighting Technical (focus, exposure, color) Creativity Storytelling impact</p> |
| <p>46) Feature/Student Life Photograph \$8 entry fee; up to 10 entries per publication Submit as a JPG or PDF</p> <p>A single candid photo depicting life on your campus or in your community. Editing limited to cropping and standard toning/color correction.</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Effective composition Effective lighting Technical (focus, exposure, color) Creativity Storytelling impact</p> |
| <p>47) Sports Action Photograph \$8 entry fee; up to 10 entries per publication Submit as a JPG or PDF</p> <p>A candid sports action photograph at a sporting event or practice. Editing is limited to cropping and standard toning / color correction.</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Effective composition Effective lighting Technical (focus, exposure, color) Creativity Storytelling impact</p> |
| <p>48) Sports Reaction Photograph \$8 entry fee; up to 10 entries per publication Submit as a JPG or PDF</p> <p>A single candid sports reaction shot. Editing is limited to cropping and standard toning / color correction.</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Effective composition Effective lighting Technical (focus, exposure, color) Creativity Storytelling impact</p> |

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| <p>49) Academic/Organization Photograph \$8 entry fee; up to 10 entries per publication Submit as a JPG or PDF</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Effective composition Effective lighting</p> |
| <p>A single candid image showcasing academics or clubs/organizations at work. Editing is limited to cropping and standard toning / color correction.</p> | <p><i>Technical (focus, exposure, color)</i> Creativity Storytelling impact</p> |
| <p>50) Personality Portrait - Student \$8 entry fee; up to 10 entries per publication Submit as a JPG or PDF</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Effective composition Effective lighting</p> |
| <p>A single image of a student or group of students, captured in a studio or environmental setting. Can be posed / planned. Editing is limited to cropping and standard toning / color correction.</p> | <p><i>Technical (focus, exposure, color)</i> Creativity Storytelling impact</p> |
| <p>51) Personality Portrait - Non-Student \$8 entry fee; up to 10 entries per publication Submit as a PDF or public weblink</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Effective composition Effective lighting</p> |
| <p>A single image of a non-student or group of non-students, captured in a studio or environmental setting. Can be posed/ planned. Editing is limited to cropping and standard toning / color correction.</p> | <p><i>Technical (focus, exposure, color)</i> Creativity Storytelling impact</p> |
| <p>52) Photo Story \$10 entry fee; up to 10 entries per publication Submit as a single-page PDF including all images and captions</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Impact Execution</p> |
| <p>A collection of 5-8 photographs that collectively tell a story - about a person, an event or some other topic. Include complete captions for each image.</p> | <p><i>Effective composition</i> Creativity Captions</p> |
| <p>53) Florida Nature Photo \$8 entry fee; up to 10 entries per publication Submit as a JPG or PDF</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Effective composition Effective lighting</p> |
| <p>A single photo of a natural setting, either with or without people -- taken in Florida. Editing is limited to cropping and standard toning.</p> | <p><i>Technical (focus, exposure, color)</i> Creativity Storytelling impact</p> |
| <p>54) Non-Florida Nature Photo \$8 entry fee; up to 10 entries per publication Submit as a JPG or PDF</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Effective composition Effective lighting</p> |
| <p>A single photo of a natural setting, either with or without people -- taken outside of Florida. Editing limited to cropping / standard toning.</p> | <p><i>Technical (focus, exposure, color)</i> Creativity Storytelling impact</p> |
| <p>55) Animal / Pet Photo \$8 entry fee; up to 10 entries per publication Submit as a JPG or PDF</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Effective composition Effective lighting</p> |
| <p>A single photo of animal(s) or pet(s). Editing limited to cropping and standard toning / color correction.</p> | <p><i>Technical (focus, exposure, color)</i> Creativity Storytelling impact</p> |

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| <p>56) Broadcast Show Opening \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a public weblink</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Creativity Audio Video Editing Graphics</p> |
| <p>Produce a max 45-second introduction to your campus news program. Be sure to abide by all copyright laws.</p> | |

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| <p>57) Talent Demo Reel \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a public weblink</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Camera presence Delivery Pacing Variety Editing quality</p> |
| <p>Produce a 1:30-2:00 demo reel showcasing your on-camera work. May include field and studio work and should include a variety of story types.</p> | |

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| <p>58) News Package \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a public weblink</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Newsworthiness Use of sources Audio quality Video quality Editing</p> |
| <p>Write, shoot and edit a max 3:00 news package for your campus news program.</p> | |

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| <p>59) Sports Package \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a public weblink</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Newsworthiness Use of sources Audio quality Video quality Editing</p> |
| <p>Write, shoot and edit a max 3:00 sports package for your campus news program.</p> | |

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| <p>60) Broadcast Commentary / Review \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a public weblink</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Talent presence Talent delivery Clear central point Evidence of research Effective use of B-Roll</p> |
| <p>Write, shoot and edit a max 1:30 broadcast Commentary or Review suitable for your campus news program.</p> | |

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| <p>61) Broadcast Profile - Student \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a public weblink</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Newsworthiness Use of sources Audio quality Video quality Editing</p> |
| <p>Write, shoot and edit a max 3:00 feature package for your campus news program about a student or group of students.</p> | |

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| <p>62) Broadcast Profile - Non-Student \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a JPG or PDF</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Newsworthiness Use of sources Audio quality Video quality Editing</p> |
| <p>Write, shoot and edit a max 3:00 feature package for your school news program about a non-student or group of non-students.</p> | |

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| <p>63) Feature Package \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a public weblink</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Newsworthiness Use of sources</p> |
| <p>Write, shoot and edit a max 3:00 feature package for your campus news program. This should not be a profile.</p> | <p><i>Audio quality Video quality Editing</i></p> |

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| <p>64) Short Film-Comedy \$10 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a public weblink</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Cinematography Script/story</p> |
| <p>Create a max 5:00 live action, fictional comedic movie.</p> | <p><i>Audio quality Editing quality Originality/creativity</i></p> |

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| <p>65) Short Film-Drama \$10 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a public weblink</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Cinematography Script/story</p> |
| <p>Create a max 5:00 live action, fictional dramatic movie.</p> | <p><i>Audio quality Editing quality Originality/creativity</i></p> |

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| <p>66) Short Documentary \$10 entry fee; up to 2 entries per publication Submit as a public weblink</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Cinematography Script/story</p> |
| <p>Create a max 10:00 documentary.</p> | <p><i>Audio quality Editing quality Impact</i></p> |

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| <p>67) Public Service Announcement \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a public weblink</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Creativity Video quality</p> |
| <p>Produce a video public service announcement for your campus news program. The PSA should be exactly 30 or exactly 60 seconds.</p> | <p><i>Audio quality Call to action/impact Editing quality</i></p> |

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| <p>68) Commercial \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a public weblink</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Creativity Video quality</p> |
| <p>Produce a commercial that promotes a product or service. It should be exactly 30 or exactly 60 seconds.</p> | <p><i>Audio quality Call to action/impact Editing quality</i></p> |

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| <p>69) Videography Demo Reel \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a public weblink</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Composition Lighting</p> |
| <p>Produce a 1:30-2:00 demo reel showcasing videography work. The reel should be the work of a single student.</p> | <p><i>Shot selection Audio Editing/pacing</i></p> |

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| <p>70) Mobile Journalism Video Package \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a public weblink</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Newsworthiness Use of sources</p> |
| <p>Submit a max 3:00 video package that was shot and edited entirely on a mobile phone.</p> | <p><i>Audio quality Video quality Editing</i></p> |

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| <p>71) Sports Highlight Package \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a public weblink</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Videography Audio</p> |
| <p>Submit a max 1:30 SportsCenter-style highlight package recapping a sporting event that includes student-shot footage and a reporter or anchor voiceover.</p> | <p><i>Talent presence Talent script Editing</i></p> |

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| <p>72) Infographic \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a PDF</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Quality of information Readability</p> |
| <p>Prepare an infographic that presents information visually. For this category, entries should be static, not animated.</p> | <p><i>Originality Readability (x2) Originality (x2)</i></p> |

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| <p>73) Newspaper Front Page \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a PDF</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Effective use of visuals Effective coverage</p> |
| <p>Submit the front page of your newspaper. Note: Magazine-style fronts should be submitted under Category 74.</p> | <p><i>Creativity Consistency Typography</i></p> |

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| <p>74) Newsmagazine Cover \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a PDF</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Effective use of visuals Effective coverage</p> |
| <p>Submit the front page of your newsmagazine or newsmagazine-style cover of your newspaper.</p> | <p><i>Creativity Consistency Engaging presentation</i></p> |

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| <p>75) News Page/Spread \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a PDF</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Effective use of visuals Effective coverage</p> |
| <p>Submit a page or spread of related pages of news content. You may submit more than a single spread if the topic is related, but combine the entire entry into a single PDF.</p> | <p><i>Creativity Consistency Typography</i></p> |

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| <p>76) Opinion Page/Spread \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a JPG or PDF</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Effective use of visuals Effective coverage</p> |
| <p>Submit a page or spread of related pages of opinion content. You may submit more than a single spread if the topic is related, but combine the entire entry into a single PDF.</p> | <p><i>Creativity Consistency Typography</i></p> |

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| <p>77) Feature Page / Spread \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a PDF</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Effective use of visuals Effective coverage</p> |
| <p>Submit a page or spread of related pages of features/entertainment content. You may submit more than a single spread if the topic is related, but combine the entire entry into a single PDF.</p> | <p><i>Creativity</i> <i>Consistency</i> <i>Typography</i></p> |
| <p>78) Sports Page / Spread \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a PDF</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Effective use of visuals Effective coverage</p> |
| <p>Submit a page or spread of related pages of sports content. You may submit more than a single spread if the topic is related, but combine the entire entry into a single PDF.</p> | <p><i>Creativity</i> <i>Consistency</i> <i>Typography</i></p> |
| <p>79) Yearbook Theme Package \$10 entry fee; up to 1 entry per publication Submit as a single PDF or a public weblink</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Visual impact Verbal impact</p> |
| <p>Submit your cover, endsheets, title page, opening, closing and dividers. You may also include up to three additional examples that showcase the visual and verbal development of your theme.</p> | <p><i>Creativity / originality</i> <i>Consistency</i> <i>Overall impression</i></p> |
| <p>80) Yearbook Student Life Spread \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a PDF</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Effective use of visuals Effective coverage</p> |
| <p>Submit a yearbook student life spread. Please submit as two facing pages if possible.</p> | <p><i>Creativity</i> <i>Consistency</i> <i>Typography</i></p> |
| <p>81) Yearbook Sports Spread \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a PDF</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Effective use of visuals Effective coverage</p> |
| <p>Submit a yearbook sports spread. Please submit as two facing pages if possible.</p> | <p><i>Creativity</i> <i>Consistency</i> <i>Typography</i></p> |
| <p>82) Yearbook Academics Spread \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a PDF</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Effective use of visuals Effective coverage</p> |
| <p>Submit a yearbook academics spread. Please submit as two facing pages if possible.</p> | <p><i>Creativity</i> <i>Consistency</i> <i>Typography</i></p> |
| <p>83) Yearbook Module \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a PDF</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Quality of copy Quality of visuals</p> |
| <p>Submit a single module. If uploading the full spread, make sure the headline is included on the entry form.</p> | <p><i>Quality of design</i> <i>Depth of coverage</i> <i>Originality</i></p> |

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| <p>84) Yearbook Senior Ad \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a PDF</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Quality of visuals Effective use of visuals Typography Adherence to design principles Creativity</p> |
| <p>Submit a single student-created senior ad of any size.</p> | |

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| <p>85) Yearbook People Spread \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a PDF</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Effective arrangement of mugs Essentials (folios, etc.) Content-visual Content-verbal Creativity</p> |
| <p>Submit a single people section spread of the yearbook. The spread should include content in addition to mugs.</p> | |

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| <p>86) Literary Magazine Spread \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a PDF</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Visual impact Verbal impact Originality Consistency Overall impact</p> |
| <p>Submit a double-page literary magazine spread. Please submit as two facing pages if possible.</p> | |

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| <p>87) Computer-Drawn Illustration \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a PDF or JPG</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Artistic quality Technique Focus Theme/meaning Originality</p> |
| <p>Submit an original student illustration made on a computer or tablet, made entirely from scratch (no photographic elements). AI-created artwork may not be submitted.</p> | |

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| <p>88) Hand-Drawn Illustration \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Scan and submit as a PDF or JPG</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Artistic quality Technique Focus Theme/meaning Originality</p> |
| <p>Submit an original, hand-drawn student illustration.</p> | |

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| <p>89) Editorial Cartoon \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a JPG or PDF</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Clarity of message Artistic quality Use of color or contrast Originality Originality (x2)</p> |
| <p>Create a hand- or computer-drawn editorial cartoon suitable for publication in a high school publication.</p> | |

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| <p>90) Multimedia Event Coverage \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a public weblink</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Text and audio Visuals and video Ease of navigation Impact of coverage Effective use of sources</p> |
| <p>Submit a single URL of a multimedia approach to coverage of an event. Entries should be more than just a video – packages may include text, audio, photography, interactive elements, etc.</p> | |

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| <p>91) Multimedia Feature \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a public weblink</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Text and audio Visuals and video</p> |
| <p>Submit a single URL of a multimedia approach to coverage of a topic (not an event). Entries should be more than just a video – packages may include text, audio, photography, interactive elements, etc.</p> | <p><i>Ease of navigation Impact of coverage Effective use of sources</i></p> |

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| <p>92) Original Music Mix \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a public weblink</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Song structure / composition Originality Creativity</p> |
| <p>Submit a max 1:30 original music composition suitable for production use.</p> | <p><i>Mix quality Overall brilliance</i></p> |

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| <p>93) Animated Short \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a public weblink</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Script/story Pacing</p> |
| <p>Create a max 2:00 animated film.</p> | <p><i>Audio Quality of animation Quality of animation (x2)</i></p> |

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| <p>94) Animated Graphic \$8 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a public weblink</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Design Use of Color</p> |
| <p>Create an animated graphic used in a broadcast or online to convey information.</p> | <p><i>Animation Content Content (x2)</i></p> |

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| <p>95) Audio Podcast \$10 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a single PDF or a public weblink</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Talent presence Script / writing</p> |
| <p>Submit a max 10:00 audio podcast about a topic of interest to your community.</p> | <p><i>Audio quality Creativity Overall impression</i></p> |

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| <p>96) Social Media Show \$10 entry fee; up to 5 entries per publication Submit as a public weblink</p> | <p><i>What the judges are looking for:</i> Talent presence Script / writing</p> |
| <p>Submit a max 2:00 social media show that highlights the daily or weekly happenings on your campus.</p> | <p><i>Audio quality Video quality Overall impression</i></p> |

How to submit entries:

1. Go to <http://betternewspapercontest.com>
2. In the top menu, select "Contestant Login"
3. Select the "Contestant Manager" tab and "FSPA Spring 2025 Digital Contests" on the left menu (It's near the bottom).
4. Then, on the right menu, select your publication/program. They are listed by "school, publication." If your organization is not listed, skip down on this document to the "HELP! I can't access the database" section.
5. The password is the same you used in the fall. If you did not enter last spring or cannot remember your password, see the "HELP! I can't access the database" section of these instructions below.
6. You may be asked to update your contact information, change your password or more. You may also be asked to read and agree to the terms of use. Hit submit once you have done all of that.
7. For first-time users, after uploading a few entries, you will receive an email asking you to confirm your email address. You will be unable to upload additional entries until you've completed this important security step. We strongly suggest you make an effort to clear this hurdle ASAP because there will be no extensions granted for entries and sometimes that email can get caught by a spam filter. School email addresses are especially prone to getting these emails stuck and sometimes advisers need to resort to a GMail address that will let that email through.

HELP! I can't access the database...

- If you are unable to log-in, send an email with the subject line DATABASE to fspacontests@gmail.com. Make sure your name, school, publication name and email address are included in the message, along with an explanation. Again, provide us with specific information here so we can help you! You WILL receive a response within 24 hours, and most likely significantly faster. DO NOT use the help feature on the website, which goes to our vendor.
- This request must come through or at least copy the adviser, to ensure the adult responsible for your publication/program is in the loop on your account creation.

Navigating the entry form

1. Once you've logged in successfully, go to "My Contest" in the top menu and select "submit entry."
 2. Select GENERAL for "Division"
 3. Then select the category you want to enter.
 4. Under headline or title, provide a headline or description to identify the entry. **If you are entering work created by middle school students, please begin your title with MS- so we can select our Best of the Best middle school winners.**
- Each category lists the submission file type.

- For text-based entries, DO NOT submit Word docs. Use PDFs.
- For photo entries, submit a JPG or PDF unless otherwise noted.
- For design entries, submit a PDF. For categories requiring a double-page spread, please try to export your two pages as a "spread" so that the pages face on the document. We know some yearbook companies do not output pages this way with their software, but if you can find a way to submit them as facing pages it will be much appreciated by evaluators.
- Broadcast and multimedia entries must be uploaded to a service such as YouTube, SchoolTube or Vimeo and submitted as a public web link. Please make sure that entries are not marked as private as judges will not be able to access them and the entries will not be scored.

Who should be credited: Enter the names of up to six students to an entry, enter "Staff" for the entry name if more than six students contribute.

Entries also require you to respond to a reCAPTCHA. Once you have uploaded the maximum allowable number of entries in a category, it will disappear from the drop-down menu. Five entries are allowed in most categories.

THIS IS IMPORTANT!!! Managing Entries

Once you've uploaded content, you can view and edit your entries at any time by going to the top left menu "My Contest" and selecting "Manage Entries."

This screen will allow you to see all of your entries at a glance. You're able to click on any file you uploaded to review it or any link you provided to test it. On the right side of each submission, select "Edit" to change an entry; "Disable" if you wish to keep an entry in the database but not submit it and "Delete" to eliminate an entry from the database.

NOTE: Once we have confirmed your entry, you can only DISABLE it. So if you submit something and decide you no longer wish to enter it, you would need to click DISABLE. If you disable an entry in a category that was full, that category will reappear as an option in the pulldown menu on the page where you submit entries.

Hey Siri please make this line blink so everyone reads it: Please make sure you test the attachments and links to ensure the content is viewable by judges. If you don't see an attachment or it does not load, then our judges won't see it either.

Billing

You can track your entry fees by using the Calculate Entry Fees button. Once all entries are submitted, we will add a digital invoice to your account on our membership website.