



2025 High School Newspaper Contest

SPONSORED BY THE NEW YORK PRESS ASSOCIATION

Compete against New York State high schools in the New York Press Association's annual High School Newspaper Contest. Find out if your school's newspaper is among the best in New York State!

Contest year extends from January 1, 2025 through December 19, 2025. Deadline for submission of entries is December 19, 2025. Entries MUST be uploaded on or before that date. If they are not, they will be disqualified. <http://www.newspapercontest.com/newyork>

CATEGORIES:

201. Best Overall Publication (Print or Online)

Recognizes overall excellence in a student publication, including content, writing, reporting, photography, design, and organization. It can be either print or online publication.

Submission: Three issues complete (PDF or URL).

202. News Story

Recognizes a single news story that covers a news event or topic of importance to the school. Judges will consider reporting effort, use of sources, and writing quality. Submit name of writer.

Submission: Submit the page with the story clearly marked (PDF or URL).

203. Feature Story

Personality profiles, trend stories or human-interest stories that capture reader interest. Judged on quality of writing, creativity, originality, storytelling, and completeness. Submit name of writer.

Submission: Submit the page with the story clearly marked (PDF or URL).

204. Sports Story

Recognizes quality reporting, storytelling, or analysis of sports events. Judges consider writing, accuracy, and reader engagement. Submit name of writer.

Submission: Submit the page with the story clearly marked (PDF or URL).

205. Column

Any regularly published column relating to readership. Submit two columns written by the same writer, and the name of writer.

Submission: Submit page (PDF or URL).

206. Arts Coverage / Story

Recognizes outstanding reporting and storytelling on the arts, including visual arts, music, theater, film, literature, or other cultural topics on campus or in the community. Entries may include profiles, reviews, features, or coverage of arts events that show creativity, depth, and strong writing. Both print and digital submissions are eligible.

Submission: Submit page (PDF or URL).

207. Feature Photo

Recognizes a single photo or series that tells a story through composition, focus, and emotion. Photographer must be credited.

Submission: PDF of the image(s) or URL link.

208. Sports Photo

Captures the competitive action and emotion of athletes on school teams competing in games, matches and meets or in personal, non-team sports. Photographer must be credited.

Submission: PDF of the image(s) or URL link.

209. Best Front Page

Front page/landing page featuring dynamic written and visual content. Entries will be judged on design, typography, headlines and effective use of photography. Can be print or online.

Submission: Three pages (PDF) or screenshots of digital layout (URL link).

210. Online / Multimedia Story

News, personality profiles, trend stories or human-interest stories that use video, audio, graphics, or interactive elements effectively. Judges look for creativity, clarity, and engagement.

Submission: Provide a working URL.

211. Graphic Illustration/Infographic

Art, photo or graphic used to illustrate a story. All elements must be the original work of the photographer/artist. Charts, graphs, quizzes, maps and tables are all eligible.

Submission: PDF of the image(s) or URL link.

212. Social Media / Audience Engagement

Recognizes innovative use of social media to inform, engage, or entertain readers. Judges consider creativity, reach, and audience interaction.

Submission: Screenshots or URLs showing posts or campaigns.

213. Podcast

Delivers relevant content through engaging audio storytelling. Entry must be a single podcast not a collection. Limit 2 entries.

Submission: Provide a working URL.

214. Short Video Clips

Recognizes excellence in short-form video storytelling. Entries may include news or features presented in a video format of five minutes or less. Judges will consider originality, clarity, visual and audio quality, and the effectiveness of storytelling in engaging the audience and delivering information. Limit 5 entries.

215. Special Recognition

Best Community Service Project: Highlighting a student publication's role in improving or informing the community.

Submission for Special Recognition: PDF, screenshots, or URL.

RULES:

Writers and photographers must be students at the time of publication. An entry is one sample from one writer or photographer. All entries must be submitted in pdf format, with entry portions marked clearly each tearsheet. Entries that are not properly identified will be disqualified.

All entries become property of the New York Press Association.

Entries will be judged by the following point system:

- 1st place = 20 points,
- 2nd place = 10 points,
- 3rd place = 5 points

The overall best high school newspaper will win a plaque and be announced during New York Press Association's spring conference held April 23rd and 24th, 2026.

FEE IS \$10.00 PER ENTRY — Fees are non-refundable