



Best of Mississippi

Scholastic Journalism Awards

**Winners will be announced at the MSPA statewide high school journalism convention at Ole Miss on Friday, April 1, 2016.
Publications must be MSPA members to win. Contact MSPA director R.J. Morgan for more information.**

Mississippi Scholastic Press Associatio
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University, MS 38677



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Best of Mississippi

Rules and Regulations

DUE
FEB. 15 2016

ELIGIBILITY & COST

The only requirement for eligibility in any of our contests is that your publication be a member of MSPA. All contests are free to enter.

TYPES OF AWARDS

We offer awards for all different publication types. These typically break down into 4 areas:

1. News Paper/Mag/Site
2. Yearbook
3. Broadcast
4. Literary Magazine

The only three awards that don't fall into one of those divisions are the MS Journalist of the Year, the MSPA Administrator of the Year, and Best Social Media Presence (listed under Newspaper for simplicity). Those awards are open to any student or publication.

Within each of the above areas, our contests break out into Publication (PUB) and Individual (IND) categories.

For Publication Categories, schools submit examples of the staff's abilities in a given area, and awards are issued in the name of the publication. For Individual Categories, schools submit strong individual works for recognition, and awards are issued in the name of the student.

In Newspaper and Yearbook categories, we offer awards in two different SIZE divisions: Small Schools (1A-3A) and Large Schools (4A-6A). The same awards are offered for both divisions. Smaller total membership numbers dictate that Broadcast and Literary Magazine categories are not subdivided by school size.

SUBMISSION

Different publications are submitted different ways. We've tried to make this as uniform as possible. Only pieces submitted properly (and on time) will be considered in each category. Once you have shared your submissions, you may not make any edits or changes to the files/entries.

MAIL SUBMISSION – Literary Magazines & Yearbooks (PUB)

For these whole-book categories, please send the entire print publication for judging. Our mailing address:

Mississippi Scholastic Press Association
102 Farley Hall
PO BOX 1848
University, MS 38677

These are the only items that should be mailed. Everything else should be submitted digitally.

DIGITAL SUBMISSION – Everything else.

1. To submit digitally, you will need to begin by creating a Dropbox or Google Drive account. Both of these are free and user-friendly.
2. Once you've created an account, create an MSPA Submissions folder in your account. This is where all your digital files will go.
3. Now you're ready to stock your Submissions folder with all the files you plan to enter.

FILE NAMES – All file names should follow this format: CategoryCode_School_StudentName (if applicable). When submitting multiple entries from the same student in the same category, tack a 1, 2 or 3 on the end of the filename. Same for submitting multiple issues of a newspaper as a single entry; tack a 1, 2 or 3 on the end of the filename.

FILE TYPES – Photos should be submitted as JPEGs. Everything else should be PDFs. For broadcasts and online content, provide links. Do not send whole videos.

4. Include one PDF with a composite list of entries. This list should help us ensure that all submissions were received. The list should be in order by category.
5. Once all files and your composite list are in your Submissions folder, simply share that folder with mississippischolasticpress@gmail.com. The office will download the files as soon as they are uploaded. Advisers will receive an email when the submissions have been received. If you do not receive an email notification within 24 hours of submission, please email MSPA director R.J. Morgan at morgan@go.olemiss.edu.

Likewise, if you have any questions about the submission process, call or email for clarification.



Best of Mississippi

High School Journalist of the Year

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Are you the best high school journalist in Mississippi? Prove it by applying for this highest honor. This award is sponsored by the Journalism Education Association and the Mississippi Press Association. Candidates for this honor must develop a comprehensive portfolio detailing their success as a high school journalist. A cash prize of \$250 is awarded to the winner. Open to journalists of all publication types. Category Code: (JOY)

REQUIRED MATERIALS (Materials must be submitted as a digital entry. This could be a wordpress site, a livebinder, etc.)

1. Action photo of applicant involved in some aspect of student media.
2. Three letters of recommendation from those who know the applicant well and understand the impact of the journalistic experience on the student's life (no letter should exceed two pages in length).
3. Personal résumé.
4. Self-analytical essay: Students should write with passion and make an impact on the judges because this essay functions as the applicant's one-on-one interview with the judges. Essay should not exceed two pages in length.
5. Up to 40 examples of student work. These can include works from a variety of different areas -- news, sports, opinion, yearbook, design, broadcast, multimedia, social media, etc. Any piece that displays your abilities as a journalist. You may choose to include a description of each sample explaining its significance or impact on your development.
6. The design of the portfolio -- again, this is a digital project -- is up to the student. Put your best foot forward. Seek to impress the judges with your delivery.

For a more complete list of requirements, visit jea.org.



Best of Mississippi

Administrator of the Year

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Promoting free speech and expression is not always easy for school administrators. Giving students the power and responsibility to report events of student interest accurately and fairly means stepping back and being supportive rather than authoritative. Scholastic journalism is one of the most engaging and challenging programs a high school student can be involved in, and MSPA is thankful for administrators who allow students the opportunity to practice their skills in a safe and respectful environment. MSPA will recognize one administrator with this award. Category Code: (ADM)

CRITERIA:

The MSPA Administrator of the Year should demonstrate outstanding support for the scholastic journalism program and understand its value within the larger school/district climate. He or she should also have a constructive and unoppressive view on student press rights.

Administrators are nominated by the adviser/staff. Submit a brief resume with up to three letters of support. Any administrator at an MSPA-member school is eligible, regardless of size. This includes assistant principals, technology coordinators, superintendents, etc. Judging will be all-inclusive.



Best of Mississippi

News Paper/Mag/Site Division

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This is MSPA's largest division of competition. Newspapers and news magazines have long been the foundation of American journalism. In recent decades, these institutions have adapted to modernity and added news websites and social media accounts to the arsenal of tools they use to deliver information to their audiences. MSPA encourages scholastic journalism programs to do the same. Below is a comprehensive list of categories offered. MSPA will award winners for all categories (other than Highest Honors) in both small school (1A-3A) and large school (4A-6A) divisions.

CATEGORY CODES & DESCRIPTIONS -- HIGHEST HONOR AWARDS

1. JoAnne Sellers Newspaper Adviser of the Year (AN)

Advisers should be able to demonstrate their excellence in program management, financial stewardship, student development and journalistic integrity. Submit a brief resume detailing yourself, your program & any relevant accomplishments, along with up to three letters of recommendation. Any adviser at an MSPA-member school is eligible, regardless of size. Judging will be all-inclusive.

2. Newspaper Editor of the Year (EN)

Student editors should exhibit journalistic talent, but more importantly, leadership. Pushing others to achieve their best and managing the success of the publication as a whole are the marks of a truly great editor. Editors should be knowledgeable and articulate about their publication and its goals, as well as the school and community. Submit a brief resume detailing yourself, your program & any relevant accomplishments, along with up to three letters of recommendation. All editors of MSPA-member schools are eligible, regardless of size. Judging will be all-inclusive.

3. Newspaper Staff Member of the Year (SN)

Staff members nominated for this award should exhibit not only outstanding journalistic talent, but a high level of dedication to the publication and a willingness to take on extra work in the staff's pursuit of excellence. Submit a brief resume detailing yourself, your program & any relevant accomplishments, along with up to three letters of recommendation. Any student on staff at an MSPA-member school is eligible, regardless of size. Judging will be all-inclusive.

4. Orley Hood Sports Writer of the Year (OH)

Presented in partnership with the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame. Students should submit a brief resume along with any three sports-related work samples. These may include columns, features, game stories, breaking news or in-depth enterprise pieces. The winning student will be announced at the MSPA convention in Oxford and recognized at the MS Sports Hall of Fame's "Pop Stars" awards banquet in Jackson later this spring. Any student on staff at an MSPA-member school is eligible, regardless of size. Judging will be all-inclusive.

CATEGORY CODES & DESCRIPTIONS -- PUBLICATION AWARDS

1. News Writing (PN)

An entry consists of three consecutive, complete issues of the newspaper with the news stories in that edition clearly marked. Highlighting the news story headlines in the PDF is the preferred method. Judging will be based on the diversity and quality of the stories, and the overall effectiveness of their display.

2. Feature Writing (PF)

An entry consists of three consecutive, complete issues of the newspaper with the news stories in that edition clearly marked. Highlighting the feature story headlines in the PDF is the preferred method. Judging will be based on the diversity and quality of the stories, and the overall effectiveness of their display.

3. Sports Writing (PS)

An entry consists of three consecutive, complete issues of the newspaper with the news stories in that edition clearly marked. Highlighting the sports story headlines in the PDF is the preferred method. Judging will be based on the diversity and quality of the stories, and the overall effectiveness of their display.

4. Opinion Writing (PO)

An entry consists of three consecutive, complete issues of the newspaper with the opinion story titles in that edition clearly marked. Highlighting opinion story headlines in the PDF is the preferred method. Judging will be based on maturity of opinion, support and research, fairness and balance.

5. Advertising Design (PA)

An entry consists of three consecutive, complete issues of the newspaper with the ads (which the newspaper staff is responsible for designing) clearly marked. Outlining the ads in the PDF is the preferred method. Judging will be based on copy writing, the design, and the effectiveness of conveying an advertising message.

6. Print Layout and Design (PD)

An entry consists of three consecutive, complete issues of the newspaper. Judging will be based on the effectiveness of the newspaper's presentation of copy and visuals.



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News Paper/Mag/Site Division

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CATEGORY CODES & DESCRIPTIONS -- PUBLICATION AWARDS (continued)

7. Online Presence (POP)

This is the top award for a high school news site. To enter this category, submit your website's URL. Judging will be based on the overall content and appearance of the website.

8. Social Media Presence (PSM) -- OPEN TO ALL PUBLICATION TYPES (including yearbook, etc.) !!!

Modern journalists are increasingly using social media to connect with their audience and report on events in real time. Sites like Twitter, Facebook and Instagram are the most popular, but not the only ones. To enter this category, list all your social media accounts on one form. Judging will be based on their combined effectiveness at informing your audience.

9. Most Improved News Publication (PMI)

An entry consists of the last issue published before Feb. 15 of last school year and the last issue published before Feb. 15 of this school year.

10. Best Newspaper (PNP)

This is the top award for a high school newspaper. An entry consists of three consecutive, complete issues. Judging will be based on the overall content and appearance of the newspaper.

CATEGORY CODES & DESCRIPTIONS -- INDIVIDUAL AWARDS (LIMIT 3 ENTRIES PER CATEGORY, PER SCHOOL)

1. News Writing (IN)

Articles entered should report on planned or past actions or developments. Judging will be based on clarity, organization, attention to detail, quotes, attributions and thoroughness.

2. Depth Reporting (IDR)

Special category for entries in which a writer/writers has completed extensive research on a large, complicated topic (think school safety or local economy). Such stories often involve comprehensive surveys and investigations. Judging is based on depth of effort and clarity of presentation.

3. Feature Writing (IF)

Features differ from news stories mainly in that features do not necessarily have a time element. They may be about people, events, or other topics; they are generally more casual than straight news. Judging will be based on clarity, descriptions, attention to detail, quotes, attribution and thoughtfulness.

4. Opinion Writing (IO)

These are opinion articles. They may also be commentaries with no specific conclusions drawn or have solutions presented. Entries will be judged on clarity, reasoning, organization and thoughtfulness.

5. Unsigned Editorials (IUE)

These are unsigned opinion articles that represent the thoughts of the entire staff. This is the voice of the paper. Entries will be judged on clarity, reasoning, organization and thoughtfulness. Though the article is unsigned, the adviser must designate the name of the actual student writer for recognition.

6. Editorial Cartoons (IC)

Any single cartoon or series, humorous or other, which was student-drawn and printed during the contest period is eligible. Judging will be based on the artist's skill in visually and verbally conveying a message. Editorial cartoons differ from "comics" in that they do present a message.

7. Personal/General Columns (IPC)

Any column with a named writer or writers, which appeared regularly in issues of the newspaper, is eligible. Columns differ from editorials in that columns are often named and, as indicated, appear regularly. Anonymous columns are not eligible. Judging will be on clarity and sharpness in writing skills.

8. Sports Writing (IS)

All copy which reports on athletic contests or issues should be entered in this category. Judging will be by criteria listed for news entries.

9. Sports Features (ISF)

All sports features (season previews, sidebars, player/coach human interest stories, etc.). Judging will be by the criteria listed for feature entries.



Best of Mississippi

News Paper/Mag/Site Division



CATEGORY CODES & DESCRIPTIONS -- INDIVIDUAL AWARDS (continued)

10. Sports Columns (ISC)

Any sports column with a named writer or writers, which appeared regularly in issues of the newspaper, is eligible. Columns differ from editorials in that columns are often named and, as indicated, appear regularly. Anonymous columns are not eligible. Judging will be on clarity and sharpness in writing skills.

11. News Photos (INP)

Any single photo that appeared in a member publication and was taken by a staff member is eligible. Judging is based on composition, focus and contrast - how effectively the photographer conveyed the reason for taking the picture.

12. Feature Photos (IFP)

Any single photo that appeared in a member publication and was taken by a staff member is eligible. Judging is based on composition, focus and contrast - how effectively the photographer conveyed the reason for taking the picture.

12. Sports Photos (ISP)

Any single photo that appeared in a member publication and was taken by a staff member is eligible. Only clippings from the publication are accepted - no photocopies, no original photos. Judging is based on composition, focus and contrast - how effectively the photographer conveyed the reason for taking the picture.

13. Page Design (IPD)

The entire page must be entered. It does not matter whether the designer wrote any of the stories or took any of the pictures on the page. Judging will be based on the attractiveness and effectiveness of the design, including the clarity and placement of headlines and other elements.

14. Ad Design (IAD)

Student designers of any single or series of ads for the same client may enter the ad or the series (as one entry). Judging will be based on design and originality.

15. Entertainment Writing (IEW)

These are feature articles on topics of teen interest (concerts, etc.). Entries will be judged on clarity, writing style, organization and thoughtfulness.

16. Reviews (IR)

These are opinion articles that critique a topic (books, movies, music, food, etc.). Entries judged on clarity, reasoning, organization and thoughtfulness.



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Yearbook Division

DUE
FEB. 15 2016

Yearbooks are one of the most sacred and important institutions entrusted to high school students. They stand as a permanent chronicle of this place in time for both the school and the community. MSPA seeks to honor excellence in these publications, as well as in the students who produce them. MSPA will award winners for all categories (other than Highest Honors) in both small school (1A-3A) and large school (4A-6A) divisions.

CATEGORY CODES & DESCRIPTIONS -- HIGHEST HONOR AWARDS

1. Caroline Fair Yearbook Adviser of the Year (AY)

Advisers should be able to demonstrate their excellence in program management, financial stewardship, student development and journalistic integrity. Submit a brief resume detailing yourself, your program & any relevant accomplishments, along with up to three letters of recommendation. Any adviser at an MSPA-member school is eligible, regardless of size. Judging will be all-inclusive.

2. Yearbook Editor of the Year (EY)

Student editors should exhibit journalistic talent, but more importantly, leadership. Pushing others to achieve their best and managing the success of the publication as a whole are the marks of a truly great editor. Editors should be knowledgeable and articulate about their publication and its goals, as well as the school and community. Submit a brief resume detailing yourself, your program & any relevant accomplishments, along with up to three letters of recommendation. All editors of MSPA-member schools are eligible, regardless of size. Judging will be all-inclusive.

3. Yearbook Staff Member of the Year (SY)

Staff members nominated for this award should exhibit not only outstanding journalistic talent, but a high level of dedication to the publication and a willingness to take on extra work in the staff's pursuit of excellence. Submit a brief resume detailing yourself, your program & any relevant accomplishments, along with up to three letters of recommendation. Any student on staff at an MSPA-member school is eligible, regardless of size. Judging will be all-inclusive.

DESCRIPTIONS -- PUBLICATION AWARDS

We'll use the entire yearbook to judge the publication awards. Send one book -- no additional submissions necessary.

1. Student Life Photography

Overall impact of candid photos of events/people that reflects the culture of the school (i.e. homecoming, pep rallies, parades, cheer sections, etc.) and how it contributes to capturing and documenting the school year. The collection must have strong-storytelling content, effectively cropped for emphasis, technically strong, in focus, proper contrast, and use of the rules of composition.

2. Feature Photography

Best use of student based photography stylized to accompany a specific story and/or event. These photos can be environmental or artistic portraits. The collection must have strong-storytelling content, effectively cropped for emphasis, technically strong, in focus, proper contrast, and use of the rules of composition.

3. Academic Photography

Overall coverage of students involved in academics; classes, projects, or events. The collection must have strong-storytelling content, effectively cropped for emphasis, technically strong, in focus, proper contrast, and use of the rules of composition.

4. Sports Photography

Overall sports coverage through action shots showing a purposeful focus on the plays. The collection must have strong-storytelling content, effectively cropped for emphasis, technically strong, in focus, proper contrast, and use of the rules of composition.

5. Student Life Copy (includes Academics & Clubs)

Best overall coverage/reporting of the school year including events, academics, clubs, and organizations. It must include meaningful student quotes that enrich the story and reflect effective interviewing by verbally creating a picture of the school year.

6. Feature Copy

Best overall coverage/reporting based on specific events, people, or things. Feature copy differs from student life in that it is specific to one person, group, or event with a more detailed account of the impact on the school year. Writing must be clear, relevant, have an engaging angle with a solid lead that draws readers into the story.

7. Sports Copy

Best overall coverage/reporting on athletic events and issues that set the mood of the current season. Content must be clear, relevant, and engaging with meaningful student quotes that enrich story and reflect effective interviewing.



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Yearbook Division

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DESCRIPTIONS -- PUBLICATION AWARDS (continued)

8. Section Dividers

Best overall design of the division spreads in the yearbook. They will be judged as a complete spread that are fresh and contemporary, setting them apart from standard design but are similar to each other. Photos, copy, captions, headlines and white space are arranged to introduce reader to contents of the section. Designs carry elements of theme concept while being innovative and adhere to journalistic guidelines.

9. Table of Contents

Can be a one page or two page spread showing careful planning that introduces the contents of the book in an engaging way while adhering to the design theme elements.

10. Graphics/Art

Overall use of graphics in the publication will be judged base on how the graphics add to spread content and design. The use of graphics shows evidence of careful planning and clear purpose: to unify, separate, emphasize or direct and not used simply to decorate or fill space.

11. Cover Design and Endsheets (publisher templates are not eligible)

The cover/endsheet introduces unifying concept visually/verbally with fresh and contemporary design. The cover creates a favorable impression through use of type/color/materials and must include the book name and year on the cover and spine. The spine also includes the school name, yearbook name, year, and volume number.

12. Opening and Closing

The designs are set apart from the standard designs but are similar to each other while incorporating components of the design theme. Photos, copy, captions, headlines, and white space are arranged to help reader begin and end the story of the year.

13. Business Advertising Design (student generated)

Judge based on overall layouts of the spreads and quality of the student generated ads. The spread are attractively designed with a variety of ad sizes for contrast. Graphics and typography enhance readability and attractiveness of design.

14. Senior Advertising Design (student generated)

Judged based on the overall layouts of the spreads and quality of the student generated design. It must also show elements of the design theme while showing innovative and attractive personal ad designs.

15. Overall Design

Overall look and attractiveness of the design of the publication based on correct use of journalistic and design guidelines and principles and show evidence of careful planning, consistency, and fluidity. Photos, copy, captions, headlines, graphics, and whitespace are arranged to guide the reader through the layout.

16. Multimedia Integration (QR codes, etc.)

Overall use of multimedia and social media integration linking the publication to online content.

17. Colophon

Best visual and verbal documentation detailing the typography, colors, equipment, and materials used to complete the publication.

18. Theme

Overall best use of the theme/concept throughout the publication. The theme/concept must be introduced visually and/or verbally on cover and carried through visually/verbally on end sheet, opening, divider, and closing showing careful development and a unified presentation. Photos, copy, captions, and design relate to the concept creating an overall package to summarize the year.

19. Most Improved

To compete in this category, submit a copy of last year's book for comparison purposes.

20. Best Yearbook (Highest Honor, All-Inclusive)

The Best Yearbook honors will be given to the publication that best uses all of the mentioned categories in ways that excel and showcases the publication.



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Yearbook Division

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CATEGORY CODES & DESCRIPTIONS -- INDIVIDUAL

1. Student Life Photography (YSLP)

One single candid photo of events/people that reflects the culture of the school (i.e. homecoming, pep rallies, parades, cheer sections, etc.) and how it contributes to capturing and documenting the school year. The photo must have strong-storytelling content, effectively cropped for emphasis, technically strong, in focus, proper contrast, and use of the rules of composition.

2. Feature Photography (YFP)

A photo stylized to accompany a specific story and/or event. These photos can be environmental or artistic portraits. The photo must have strong-storytelling content, effectively cropped for emphasis, technically strong, in focus, proper contrast, and use of the rules of composition.

3. Academic Photography (YAP)

A photo showing students involved in academics; classes, projects, or events. The photo must have strong-storytelling content, effectively cropped for emphasis, technically strong, in focus, proper contrast, and use of the rules of composition.

4. Sports Photography (YSP)

A photo action shot showing a purposeful focus on the play. The photo must have strong-storytelling content, effectively cropped for emphasis, technically strong, in focus, proper contrast, and use of the rules of composition.

5. Photo Illustration (YPI)

Any photo that has been manipulated digitally to create a new illustration and/or creation. The photo must have strong-storytelling content, effectively cropped for emphasis, technically strong, in focus, proper contrast, and use of the rules of composition.

6. Student Life Reporting (includes Academics & Clubs) (YSLR)

One piece of coverage/reporting of the school year including events, academics, clubs, and organizations. It must include meaningful student quotes that enrich the story and reflect effective interviewing by verbally creating a picture of the school year.

7. Feature Reporting (YFR)

One piece of coverage/reporting based on specific events, people, or things. Feature copy differs from student life in that it is specific to one person, group, or event with a more detailed account of the impact on the school year. Writing must be clear, relevant, have an engaging angle with a solid lead that draws readers into the story.

8. Sports Reporting (YSR)

One piece of coverage/reporting on athletic events and issues that set the mood of the current season. Content must be clear, relevant, and engaging with meaningful student quotes that enrich story and reflect effective interviewing.

9. Section Dividers (YSD)

Division spreads will be judged as a complete spread that are fresh and contemporary, setting them apart from standard design but are similar to each other. Photos, copy, captions, headlines and white space are arranged to introduce reader to contents of the section. Designs carry elements of theme concept while being innovative and adhere to journalistic guidelines.

10. Graphic/Art (YGA)

A single original graphic element student designed/created to appear within a spread. The graphic can be submitted as a stand alone item.

11. Graphics/Art Package (YGP)

A group of elements within a spread be judged base on how the graphics add to spread content and design. The use of graphics shows evidence of careful planning and clear purpose: to unify, separate, emphasize or direct and not used simply to decorate or fill space. The graphic element must be submitted as it appears on the spread.

12. Business Advertising Design (student generated) (YBAD)

Judge based on overall layouts of the spreads and quality of the student generated ads. The spread are attractively designed with a variety of ad sizes for contrast. Graphics and typography enhance readability and attractiveness of design.

13. Senior Advertising Design (student generated) (YSAD)

Judged based on the overall layouts of the spreads and quality of the student generated design. It must also show elements of the design theme while showing innovative and attractive personal ad designs.



Best of Mississippi

Broadcast Division

DUE
FEB. 15 2016

School newscasts are the fastest-growing area of journalism in Mississippi. Each year, more and more schools are giving their students control of the airwaves and allowing them to deliver quality announcements and video packages to their student body. This year MSPA has added several new categories to honor both school and student successes.

CATEGORY CODES & DESCRIPTIONS -- HIGHEST HONOR AWARDS

1. Broadcast Adviser of the Year (AB)

Advisers should be able to demonstrate their excellence in program management, financial stewardship, student development and journalistic integrity. Submit a brief resume detailing yourself, your program & any relevant accomplishments, along with up to three letters of recommendation. Any adviser at an MSPA-member school is eligible, regardless of size. Judging will be all-inclusive.

2. Broadcast Editor of the Year (EB)

Student editors should exhibit journalistic talent, but more importantly, leadership. Pushing others to achieve their best and managing the success of the publication as a whole are the marks of a truly great editor. Editors should be knowledgeable and articulate about their publication and its goals, as well as the school and community. Submit a brief resume detailing yourself, your program & any relevant accomplishments, along with up to three letters of recommendation. All editors of MSPA-member schools are eligible, regardless of size. Judging will be all-inclusive.

3. Broadcast Staff Member of the Year (SB)

Staff members nominated for this award should exhibit not only outstanding journalistic talent, but a high level of dedication to the publication and a willingness to take on extra work in the staff's pursuit of excellence. Submit a brief resume detailing yourself, your program & any relevant accomplishments, along with up to three letters of recommendation. Any student on staff at an MSPA-member school is eligible, regardless of size. Judging will be all-inclusive.

CATEGORY CODES & DESCRIPTIONS -- PUBLICATION AWARDS

Best Newscast (BCN) – This is the highest honor in this division. Judges will look for strong content and presentation, as well as consistency and professionalism. Each school may submit one complete show, no longer than 15 minutes.

Most Improved Newscast (BMIN) - For this category, submit one complete broadcast from before Feb. 15 of last school year, and one complete broadcast from this school year. Total runtime for both shows should not exceed 30 minutes.

Editing (BCE) – Good broadcasts blend action-oriented video with quality graphics, audio and transitions. This category aims to reward students' precision in these behind-the-camera areas. Judges will look for quality, professionalism, and consistency. Each school may submit one complete show, no longer than 15 minutes.

Opening Sequence (BCOS) – First impressions are important. How do you introduce yourself to your audience? Newscast openings should be entertaining, informative and professional. Maximum of length of one minute per entry, one entry per school.

News Coverage Reel (BNCR) – This is a compilation reel of your show's best hard news coverage. Highlight your program's best breaking news, event coverage, in-depth pieces, etc. Maximum length of 10 minutes per entry, one entry per school.

Feature Coverage Reel (BFCR) – This is a compilation reel of your show's best feature coverage. Good features can be lighthearted, serious, emotional, or in-depth. Show us your strongest ones! Maximum length of 10 minutes per entry, one entry per school.

Sports Coverage Reel (BSCR) – This is a compilation reel of your show's best sports coverage. For Mississippi high schools, quality sports coverage is a must! Show us your best previews, recaps, features and exclusives. Maximum length of 10 minutes per entry, one entry per school.

Creative Package Reel (BCPR) - A 10-minute-max compilation highlighting any PSA, hype videos, documentaries, etc. that the team has done throughout the year. One entry per school.

Online Streaming Program (BOSP) - This entry could be a student-produced broadcast (audio or video) of a sporting event or school program. Judges will look at on-air talent as well as technical execution. Clip of program should be no longer than 30 minutes.

CATEGORY CODES & DESCRIPTIONS -- INDIVIDUAL AWARDS (LIMIT 3 ENTRIES PER CATEGORY, PER SCHOOL)

News Package (BCNP) – This category is for your program's best individual student news reports. Any breaking news, events, in-depth pieces, etc. are permissible. Maximum length of 3 minutes per entry, three entries per school.

Feature Package (BCFP) – This category is for your program's best individual student feature reports. Good features can be lighthearted, serious, emotional, or in-depth. Maximum length of 3 minutes per entry, three entries per school.



Best of Mississippi

Broadcast Division



CATEGORY CODES & DESCRIPTIONS -- INDIVIDUAL AWARDS (continued)

Sports Package (BCSP) – This category is for your program's best individual student sports reports. Any sports-related previews, recaps, features or exclusives are admissible. Maximum length of 3 minutes per entry, three entries per school.

Anchor Work (BANC) - Who's the most talented in-studio talent in MS? Submit your highlight reel here to compete. Maximum length of 5 minutes per entry, three entries per school.

PSA Video (BPSA) - This category is for public service announcements and videos that argue for a specific cause or action. Maximum length of 3 minutes per entry, three entries per school.

Hype Video (BHYP) - This category is for videos that excite or engage the student body ahead of a major sporting event or school function. Judging will be based on difficulty and effectiveness. Maximum length of 2 minutes per entry, three entries per school.

Weather Report (BWET) - There's a lot that goes into delivering a weather forecast for your student body. Maximum length of 3 minutes per entry, one entry per school.

Podcast (BPOD) - Does your publication put out a great podcast? Submit your best episode here. Maximum length of 15 minutes per entry, one entry per school.

Documentary (BDOC) - This category is for lengthy in-depth pieces on a singular topic. For example, a 30-minute look at the history of integration in your town/school. Judges will look for innovation, effectiveness and excellence. No maximum length, one entry per school.



Best of Mississippi

Literary Magazine Division

DUE
FEB. 15 2016

Literary Magazines veer from the normal just-the-facts-ma'am method of journalism. They offer students a chance to express their creativity through fiction, poetry and art. MSPA celebrates this freedom of expression by awarding excellence in the categories below.

Criteria:

Eligible Literary Magazines **must have been published AFTER Feb. 15 of last school year**. If your school publishes more than one issue per year, please include all issues published. Journalism is all about telling the best stories in the most original and effective way. **All categories** will be judged based on originality, professional quality, and effectiveness. For literary writing, judges will also consider creativity, attention to detail and thoughtfulness.

CATEGORY CODES & DESCRIPTIONS -- PUBLICATION AWARDS

We'll use the entire lit mag to judge the publication awards. Send one copy -- no additional submissions necessary.

1. Design (attractiveness and readability).
2. Theme (Consistent throughout?)
3. **Most Improved** (submit a copy of last year's book for comparison purposes)
4. Literary Magazine (Highest Honor, All-Inclusive)

CATEGORY CODES & DESCRIPTIONS -- INDIVIDUAL AWARDS (LIMIT 3 ENTRIES PER CATEGORY, PER SCHOOL)

These are submitted digitally.

1. Short Fiction (LMSF)
2. Poem (LMP)
3. Nonfiction (LMNF)
4. Hand-drawn Illustration (LMDI)
5. Graphic Illustration (LMGI)
6. Photo (LMPH)