

JEA National High School Journalist Of The Year Official Entry Form

Co-sponsored by Journalism Education Association
and N.C. Scholastic Media Association
Go to jea.org/awards/journalist

Name _____
Street Address _____ Phone _____
City, State, ZIP _____
Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Names _____
E-mail _____
School _____
Street Address _____ Phone _____
City, State, ZIP _____
Adviser _____ Principal _____

Hometown Media 1. _____ 2. _____
Street Address _____ / _____
City, State, ZIP _____ / _____

How long have you been involved in journalism? _____
Positions Held (specify type of media such as yearbook, newspaper, literary magazine, radio, TV, online):

Publication Name/Type	Position	Length of Time	
		From	To
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

On a separate sheet of paper, answer the following questions:

- Has any of your work been used by the professional media? If yes, please explain.
- Do you plan to enroll in a university journalism and/or mass communication degree program?
- What aspect of journalism and mass communication is your career goal?
- List colleges you are considering in order of preference. Please indicate if you have been accepted. If you have definitely decided which school you will attend, list only that college.

Send your portfolio to NCSMA, 284 Carroll Hall, UNC-Chapel Hill,
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3365 **postmarked by Feb. 15.**

Checklist:

- Official entry form
- Self-analytical evaluation of your "journalistic life," using your most creative form.
- Action photo of you doing something journalistic—interviewing someone, taking a photograph, designing a page, doing a broadcast standup, or talking to your staff. Winners' photos will be published.
- Official copy of your transcript
- 3-4 letters of recommendation from your adviser, other teachers who know your leadership and journalistic abilities and practitioners with whom you have worked. A letter from the principal is desirable but not absolutely necessary.
- Samples of your work carefully selected to show your quality and diversity of reporting, writing, photography, design, etc.
- Self-addressed, padded, stamped envelope large enough to hold your portfolio

Preparing Your Portfolio:

- Entry material should not exceed 46 pages one-sided or 23 two-sided pages with application materials not to exceed an additional 10 pages. This includes the application, transcript (opened), personal photo and self-analytical essay.
- Plastic sheet protectors are acceptable. All letters should be opened and included as part of the 46 pages.
- The pages should be inserted into a three-ring binder designed to hold 8 1/2 x 11-inch paper.
- Some ideas to get started on the self-analytical evaluation: How do you feel about journalism? How did you get started in journalism? What have you contributed to journalism? What have you had to go through to achieve? What are your journalism plans for the future? The evaluation should be long enough for the judges to reach a decision as to your creative qualifications and short enough not to be redundant (and boring).
- Samples of work should be carefully selected. Provide judges with a good cross section of your best work rather than everything ever produced. Date, name of publication and relevance should be on the page with each sample.
- Include samples showing one or more of the following characteristics. They should be grouped according to what they represent, and these groupings should be labeled.
 1. Skilled and creative use of media content — wiring, production, photography, etc.
 2. Inquiring mind and investigative persistence resulting in in-depth studies of issues important to the local high school audience, high school students in general or society.
 3. Courageous and responsible handling of sensitive issues — local or societal — despite threat or imposition of censorship.
 4. Variety of journalistic experiences, each handled in a quality manner - newspaper, yearbook, broadcast, etc.
 5. Sustained and commendable work with community media.
- At least one issue of your newspaper or magazine or photocopies of relevant spreads from your yearbook (not the entire book) should be enclosed so the judges can see the context of your work. Audio or video tapes should accompany an entry focusing on broadcast work. They should be cued up to the work the judges should view or hear, and should have the entrant's name on the tape case.
- Photocopies of letters, clippings and art are acceptable; however, original prints of photographs should accompany entries based on published pictures.