

NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

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2009 NSAA JOURNALISM MANUAL

INDEX

Internet Information..... 2

NSAA Authority 3

NSAA Bylaws Governing Journalism 3

Eligibility Certificate Requirement 4

State Contest Overview 4

Competitive Categories..... 4

Entry Requirements 4

Yearbook Entries..... 5

Newspaper Entries..... 5

Photography Entries 5

Significant Dates..... 5

State Contest - Instructions..... 6

Preliminary Competition 6

State Journalism Finals 6

Rules for State Finals Competition 7

Nebraska State Journalism Championships Schedule of Event..... 8

State Contest - Event Descriptions 9

The Nebraska School Activities Association Journalism Manual is prepared for school administrators and advisers. All advisers and activities directors are urged to study this document. Remember that not every eligibility rule is covered in this Manual. Schools are responsible for knowing the rules, which are covered in the NSAA Yearbook.

Jim Angele is the NSAA staff member who coordinates journalism.

Internet Information

The Nebraska School Activities Association's home page on the internet is found at the following address:

<http://www.nsaahome.org>

This ever-growing means of communication includes a sub-page for each of the NSAA's sponsored activities. Administrators, advisers and others involved in this activity should make themselves familiar with our website because the NSAA office uses the internet as a quick way to offer information without having the trouble and expense of additional mailings. Here are some journalism topics on the internet:

Current year classifications; state contest preliminary results; state contest qualifiers; state contest information; state contest final results; past state contest champions; and a link to the Nebraska High School Press Association web site.

It is important for schools to routinely check the internet, especially for preliminary results and state contest information.

NSAA staff members can be reached via e-mail:

jangele@nsaahome.org -- to Jim Angele for journalism inquiries

nsaa@nsaahome.org -- to the NSAA office in general

Other questions may be directed to members of the Nebraska High School Press Association Board:

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College of Journ. & Mass Com.
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Lincoln, NE 68588-0474
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NSAA Authority

Journalism is one of the activities sponsored by the NSAA for administration of competition among schools. The Journalism State Contest is an NSAA state contest, directed for the Association by the Nebraska High School Press Association. Just as in athletic state competition, participation in the Journalism State Contest carries a requirement that schools are registered for the activity with the NSAA and submit entries from eligible students only.

NSAA Bylaws Governing Journalism

8.1 PURPOSE

8.1.1 The purpose of the activity of Journalism shall be to establish a closer relationship among high school publications in the state, to furnish an opportunity for the discussion of problems, and to establish standards for high school journalism.

8.2 FEES

8.2.1 A school shall indicate its intention to participate in Journalism by paying the annual activity registration fee.

8.4 STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

8.4.1 Participation by students in any journalism contest shall be governed by Article 2, Bylaws Governing All Activities, except writing for remuneration does not cause ineligibility.

Note: Section 2.5 of NSAA Yearbook

2.5 SCHOLASTIC REQUIREMENTS

2.5.1 Current Semester. To be eligible, the student must be continuously enrolled in at least twenty credit hours of instruction per semester at the school the student represents in interscholastic competition.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 2.5.1

Reference:

2.5.1 Each individual school may determine its own current semester scholastic requirement for eligibility to compete in interschool activities. The requirements may be more stringent than the State Association's, but in no case shall the requirements be less restrictive.

2.5.2 Preceding Semester. To be eligible, a student shall have credit on the school records for twenty credit hours of school work for the immediate preceding semester.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 2.5.2

Reference:

2.5.2 The twenty credit hours shall be such as will ordinarily be considered as advancing the student towards graduation.

2.5.2.1 The term "preceding semester" means the semester immediately preceding the semester in which the student wishes to participate in activities.

2.5.2.2 The preceding semester rule is not to apply to students who are entering high school for the first time and have not competed or practiced with a high school team.

8.6 CLASSIFICATION

8.6.1 The schools registered for Journalism shall be divided into five classes.

8.6.1.1 Classification shall be based on the enrollment in grades nine, ten, and eleven according to the enrollment figures submitted to the Department of Education on the last Friday in September of the preceding school year.

8.6.1.2 Journalism Classes:

Class A1-Enrollment of 1,100 or more.

Class C-Enrollment of 101-200.

Class A2-Enrollment of 500-1,099.

Class D-Enrollment of 100 and less.

Class B-Enrollment of 201-499.

Eligibility Certificate Requirement

Journalism advisers and school administrators do not regularly discuss eligibility rules as much as sport coaches. The eligibility information from your administration must be filed with our office on any journalism students entering the state contest. This must be completed online at www.nsaahome.org and is due February 2.

Other sports and activities regularly submit the list of students eligible for competition. Eligibility MUST BE VERIFIED for those students submitting state contest entries.

Should you discover a student is ineligible, you or an administrator should contact the NSAA office to discuss the withdrawal of the entry or request a possible hardship waiver if you wish to have the student compete in the state contest.

State Contest Overview

The Nebraska State Journalism Championships, sponsored by the Nebraska High School Press Association and the Nebraska School Activities Association, permits students to compete for statewide recognition for themselves and their high school. We encourage you to enter your students' best work where they qualify according to the rules of the 21 competitive categories.

Competitive Categories

There are 21 categories: advertising, column writing, editorial cartooning, editorial writing, entertainment writing, newspaper feature writing, headline writing, info graphic, in-depth newspaper coverage, newspaper layout, news writing, photo illustration, news/feature photography, sports/action photography, sports feature writing, sports news coverage, yearbook feature writing, yearbook layout, yearbook theme development, yearbook sports feature writing, and yearbook theme copy writing.

Entry Requirements

- All entries must have been published electronically or in print, except the photography categories, which do not necessarily have to be published.
- **All entries must be the original work by student(s). For example, using a pre-designed company layout to submit for the yearbook layout category would not be acceptable. By signing, the adviser is verifying that the entry is original student work.**
- Schools are limited to three entries per category.
- Labels are included in this mailing for schools registered with the NSAA in journalism.
- **These labels MUST be used for your entries, attached to an 8 1/2 inch by 11-inch mount (it is not necessary to mount entries, that are already at least 8 inches by 10 inches). Entries should NOT be mounted on anything larger than 8 1/2 by 11 sheets.** Attach the label to the back of each entry and be sure the student's first and last name is typed or neatly printed. **Each contest label must be signed by the adviser. If not, the entry is disqualified.** (For categories requiring two or more samples of a student's work, please use labels 1a, 1b, and

1c, for your school's first entry. Affix labels 2a, 2b, and 2c for your school's second entry, etc.). **If an entry consists of more than one sample, the samples comprising one entry should be labeled as indicated, then stapled together.**

- A school's three entries in an event may be from three different students, but more than one piece of work by the same student can be entered in an event as long as the total number of entries in the event from the school does not exceed three.
- When one person has more than one entry in an event, the judge will choose the best of that person's entries and then evaluate that entry with other entries for the 1-2-3 preliminary finishes by class and the overall top 12.
- One student cannot place more than once in an event.
- **Team entries are permitted for in-depth newspaper coverage (no more than six students to a team) and yearbook theme development (no more than three students to a team.)**
- **In the team events, changing one person on the team allows the entries to be considered separately.**
- Because of the nature of info graphic, in-depth newspaper coverage, sports/action photography, and photo illustration, state medal winners will be determined from the judging of the preliminary entries.
- All other categories must be entries from individual students.
- All entries must be postmarked by the entry deadline date.

Yearbook Entries

- In yearbook theme development, if done by more than one student, a maximum of three students are permitted to come and compete as a team for the finals competition.
- Yearbook entries may be selected from the current year's book or work already published in last year's book if the work was not entered in last year's contest. (Do not send the work from students who have graduated or who are no longer students at your school.) Photo copies of paste-ups will be accepted.
- Yearbook entries should be drawn on publisher-supplied layout forms or typed on 8 1/2 by 11 paper. Seventy-five percent or larger laser printouts are also acceptable. Yearbook entries could also be a photocopy of a page or proof.

Newspaper Entries

- Newspaper entries must have been **published electronically or in print between March 2008 and March 2009**. Newspaper entries should be clippings from the paper in which they were published or web page printouts with a clear date of release.

Photography Entries

- Photography entries must follow directions on the photography entry sheet.

Significant Dates

February 2 -NSAA Online Eligibility Due. Staff members submitting entries for preliminary judging must meet all NSAA eligibility criteria. The NSAA Eligibility Certificate must be filed online, using the school's NSAA-assigned homepage.

March 5 (Postmark Date)-Entries must be sent to the UNL College of Journalism and Mass Communications. SEND FIRST CLASS. Use labels included with this mailing for your entries. Fill in the student's name and sign the label. Late entries will not be accepted.

April 21-The preliminary results will be posted on the NSAA website and sent to schools. The top 12 finishers and all first place finishers in each class from the sweepstakes competition are invited to compete in the State Contest. Three alternates will be added to the top 12. This information will include state final instructions.

May 1-NSAA State Journalism Contest Entry form must be completed online, using the school's NSAA assigned homepage. This form will confirm that your qualifying students will compete at the State Contest.

May 4-Alternates, for categories that do not have a full complement of competitors, will be notified and invited to the State Journalism Contest.

May 11-State final competition in Lincoln. Mark this date on your calendar so your students will not make other commitments.

State Contest - Instructions

Entries for the preliminary Spring Journalism Contest must be sent to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Journalism and Mass Communications and be postmarked by March 5, 2009 or sooner.

READ THE DIRECTIONS AND FOLLOW THEM CAREFULLY. Be sure to fill out each label for each entry and remember advisers to sign the label. No more than three entries per category will be accepted. Entries will be disqualified if they fail to meet specified criteria. NHSPA Board reviews all entries prior to judging to ensure entries meet specified requirements for each category. Those entries failing to meet the outlined requirements are removed prior to judging.

All materials must be sent to:

John Bender
High School Journalism State Contest
College of Journalism and Mass Communications
345 Andersen Hall
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Lincoln, NE 68588-0479

Preliminary Competition

Judging Explanation

Journalism professionals and university faculty serve as judges and select the top three contestants per class in each category and the state's overall top 12 contestants (regardless of class), plus three alternates.

Preliminary Sweepstakes Results

Entries from each class will be judged to determine a 1-2-3 finish in each event for sweepstakes tabulation.

Preliminary Awards

Certificates will be awarded to the three place winner in each class of the preliminary contest and to state contest qualifiers in each category.

State Journalism Finals

State Finals Date

The finals for the state interscholastic Journalism Contest will be held on Monday following the University of Nebraska-Lincoln commencement or Week 45 of the NSAA Calendar, whichever is earlier and does not conflict with UNL classes in session.

State Journalism Contest will be May 11, 2009 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Journalism and Mass Communications, located in Andersen Hall.

State Qualifiers

Entries from all five classes will be judged together to determine the state finalists in each category for the Nebraska State Journalism Contest. Those entries finishing in the top 12 and those class champions not listed among the top 12 automatically qualify for the Nebraska State Journalism Contest.

In addition to the top 12, three alternates will be selected. Should a member (or members) of the top 12 decide not to compete in a state contest event, the first alternate (second alternate, third alternate) shall be notified and invited to compete at the state finals.

No finals are held in info graphic, in-depth newspaper coverage, photo illustration, and sports/action photography. For these events, the overall top six place winners from the preliminary judging are invited to the awards ceremony to receive their medals.

Individual State Contest Judging and Awards

Journalism professionals and university faculty serve as judges and will select the top six place winners in each category. Medals will be presented to the top six place winners in each final contest at the awards ceremony, located within the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Student Union. These winners are chosen at the finals contest. Medal winners in the categories of info graphic, in-depth newspaper coverage, photo illustration, and sports/action photography are based on preliminary results and will be honored during the awards ceremony.

Team Trophies and Adviser Awards

Trophies will be presented to the champion and runner-up teams based on the preliminary sweepstakes results. A plaque will be presented to the adviser of the state championship winning staff. Sweepstakes awards to schools will be compiled from 1-2-3 finishes in each class in the preliminary competition and are based on three points for first, two points for second, and one point for third. Preliminary entries from all 21 events in all five classes will be scored.

Rules for State Finals Competition

1. In order to compete, **all students must be accompanied by their adviser or a certified teacher/administrator from their school.**
2. Advisers are to check in at the lobby desk in Andersen Hall prior to the beginning of the contest.
3. If a student is unable to compete, the school's adviser shall notify Jim Angele of the NSAA at 402-489-0386, so that he may contact the appropriate alternate. Schools cannot make substitutions for qualified students. The State Contest Entry form, confirming your school's competitors, must be completed online by May 1.
4. In each event, students in the preliminary top 12, and the first-place sweepstakes winners in each class are eligible for the final competition. Therefore, if a student doesn't qualify in the state's top 12 overall, but is listed as the first-place winner in his/her class, he or she is eligible to compete.
5. **No student may compete in more than two (2) contest events during the state finals.** If students compete in news/feature photography, he/she may need to be available to choose his/her three best photos for judging at the specified time and location indicated on the schedule.
6. Students must bring all necessary supplies or materials with them **unless otherwise noted.** Finalists in the editorial cartoon contest must bring art supplies (black felt tip pen, etc.) they wish to use. Yearbook and newspaper layout contestants **will be provided all supplies.** Photographers should bring cameras, extra batteries, digital storage devices, and all cords, media card-readers, etc., that may assist in transferring the final images for judging. **No outside materials will be allowed in the contest room, unless otherwise noted.**
7. Students should wear watches, although most Andersen Hall classrooms have clocks.

8. If a student has qualified in two contests that are held at the same time, the adviser should call or e-mail Jim Angele (402-489-0386, jangele@nsaahome.org) or John Bender (402-472-3053, jbender1@unl.edu) to see if arrangements can be made to accommodate the student.

Nebraska State Journalism Championships
Schedule of Events
 Monday, May 11, 2009

Time	Activity
7:30 a.m. - 9 a.m.	Adviser Check-In, Andersen Hall Lobby
8:30 a.m.-10 a.m.	News/Feature Photography (Contest qualifiers will receive special instructions from the contest director prior to the contest.)
9 a.m.	Advisers Meeting
Session 1 Time	Activity
9:15 a.m.	Editorial Writing Entertainment Writing Sports News Writing News Feature Writing Headline Writing Advertising Yearbook Layout Yearbook Theme Copy Writing
Session 2 Time	Activity
10:30 a.m.	Column Writing Editorial Cartooning Newspaper Sports Feature Writing News Writing Newspaper Layout Yearbook Theme Development Yearbook Feature Writing Yearbook Sports Feature Writing
12:45 p.m.	Awards Ceremony, Student Union (No luncheon provided)

State Contest - Event Descriptions

* Remember to attach all entries smaller than 8 by 10 inches to an 8 1/2 by 11-inch mount *

ADVERTISING (NEWSPAPER OR YEARBOOK) – *Individual Event:*

Criteria for judging: Overall effect, appearance, use of art, and quality of copy writing. Copy and design of the ad should be the work of the student. Emphasis will be put on design and copy writing. **If other elements (parts of other articles, artwork, etc.) or pages cannot be cut from the entry, draw an X through them.** Attach a completed contest label to the back of each entry. Work must be that of an individual student except artwork used.

FINALS: Students will be provided clip art and a fact sheet or client presentation from which to develop a display advertisement. **Students may bring blank paper, pencils, pens, or markers, but no additional materials such as newspapers, magazines, writing guides, etc., will be allowed in the contest room.**

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COLUMN WRITING (NEWSPAPER) – *Individual Event:*

Criteria for judging: Originality, good taste, reader appeal, and quality of writing. **Two different samples** of columns written by each entrant must comprise the entry. Attach a completed contest label to the back of each entry. Do not send editorials for this contest, only columns. Headlines may be included. **If other elements (parts of other articles, artwork, etc.) or pages cannot be cut from the entry, draw an X through them.** NOTE: Use labels 1a and 1b for your school's first student entry. Affix labels 2a and 2b to your school's second student entry, etc. **Staple the two samples comprising one entry.**

FINALS: Students will select one of three topics and write a column aimed at their respective high school audiences. Final will be written on a computer. **Students may bring blank paper and writing utensils, but no additional materials such as newspapers, magazines, writing guides, etc., will be allowed in the contest room.**

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EDITORIAL CARTOONING (NEWSPAPER) – *Individual Event:*

Criteria for judging: Expression of editorial idea, neatness, and quality of artistry. Attach a completed contest label to the back of each entry. An editorial may accompany the cartoon if necessary to better understand the issue being presented. **If other elements (parts of other articles, artwork, etc.) or pages cannot be cut from the entry, draw an X through them.**

FINALS: Students will be given a choice of either news articles or editorials. Students are to select one as the inspiration for one editorial cartoon. They must provide their own art supplies. **Students may bring blank paper, pencils, pens, or markers, but no additional materials such as newspapers, magazines, writing guides, etc., will be allowed in the contest room.**

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EDITORIAL WRITING (NEWSPAPER) – *Individual Event:*

Criteria for judging: Structure, reader interest, journalistic style, quality of writing, and accomplishment of purpose. Attach a completed contest label to the back of each entry. **DO NOT SEND COLUMNS** for this contest, only editorials. Headlines may be included. **If other elements (parts of other articles, artwork, etc.) or pages cannot be cut from the entry, draw an X through them.**

FINALS: Students will be asked to write an editorial based on one of three given news stories. Final will be written on a computer. **Students may bring blank paper, pencils, pens, or markers, but no additional materials such as newspapers, magazines, writing guides, etc., will be allowed in the contest room.**

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ENTERTAINMENT REVIEW WRITING (NEWSPAPER OR YEARBOOK) – *Individual Event:*

Criteria for judging: Creativity, writing ability, sound knowledge of subject matter. Copy can include reviews of movies, books, videos, concerts, restaurants, plays, etc. Include **two examples of best work for each entry.** Attach a completed contest label to the back of each entry. Headlines may be included. **If other elements (parts of other articles, artwork, etc.) or pages cannot be cut from the entry, draw an X through them.** NOTE: Use labels 1a and 1b for your school’s first student entry. Affix labels 2a and 2b to your school’s second student entry, etc. **Staple the two samples comprising one entry.**

FINALS: Students will write a review of a performance. Final will be written on a computer. **Students may bring blank paper, pencils, pens, or markers, but no additional materials such as newspapers, magazines, writing guides, etc., will be allowed in the contest room.**

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HEADLINE WRITING (NEWSPAPER OR YEARBOOK) – *Individual Event:*

Criteria for judging: **Entry of three headlines** should reflect timeliness, accuracy, news judgment, journalistic style and objectivity in relation to the story. Each entry must include the stories for which the headlines have been composed. **If other elements (parts of other articles, artwork, etc.) or pages cannot be cut from the entry, draw an X through them.** NOTE: Use labels 1a, 1b and 1c for your school’s first student entry. Affix labels 2a, 2b and 2c to your school’s second student entry, etc. **Staple the three samples comprising one entry.**

FINALS: Students will be given five stories and must write headlines for three selected stories. Stipulations for count, length and style will be given at the event. **Students may bring blank paper, pencils, pens, or markers, but no additional materials such as newspapers, magazines, writing guides, etc., will be allowed in the contest room.**

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**** Remember to attach all entries smaller than 8 by 10 inches to an 8 1/2 by 11-inch mount ****

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NEWSPAPER FEATURE WRITING (NEWSPAPER) – Individual Event:

Criteria for judging: Originality, reader appeal or interest, quality of lead, emphasis or feature angle, color and quality of writing. Do not include poetry or columns in this contest. Examples include personality profiles, human-interest stories, historical perspectives, and single in-depth research articles. Remember that length is not a criterion of good feature writing. Attach a completed contest label to the back of each entry. Headlines may be included. **If other elements (parts of other articles, artwork, etc.) or pages cannot be cut from the entry, draw an X through them.**

FINALS: Students will interview a source or be given a fact sheet on a topic and write a feature story from information obtained. Final will be written on a computer. **Students may bring blank paper, pencils, pens, or markers, but no additional materials such as newspapers, magazines, writing guides, etc., will be allowed in the contest room.**

INFO GRAPHIC (NEWSPAPER OR YEARBOOK) – Individual Event:

Criteria for judging: Originality, readability, and appearance. Emphasis will be on how well the graphic blends with and conveys content. Entry must be created with the intent to publish. **If other elements or pages (parts of other articles, artwork, etc.) cannot be cut from the entry, draw an X through them.**

FINALS: Medals will be awarded based on preliminary competition.

IN-DEPTH NEWSPAPER COVERAGE (NEWSPAPER) – Team Event - 6 Students Maximum:

Criteria for judging: News worthiness, breadth of coverage, evidence of research, visual presentation. It is expected that entries include more than a single story, i.e., a story plus information graphics, two or more stories or a combination of stories, graphics and photos. Single in-depth stories should be entered in the feature writing category. Team entries are accepted. Limit the number of contributing students to six for each entry. **Draw an X through other pages if they cannot be cut from the entry (for example, the back side of a double truck).**

FINALS: Medals will be awarded based on preliminary results.

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NEWSPAPER LAYOUT (NEWSPAPER) – Individual Event:

Criteria for judging: Principles of good layout, graphic effect, legibility, and neatness. **Each student entry shall be comprised of three separate designs.** Any page layout may be entered. Submit tear sheets or photocopies. Double truck spreads will be judged as a single unit. Attach a completed contest label to the back of each entry. **Draw an X through other pages if they cannot be cut from the entry (for example, the back side of a double truck).** NOTE: Use labels 1a, 1b and 1c for your school’s first student entry. Affix labels 2a, 2b and 2c to your school’s second student entry, etc. **Staple the three samples comprising one entry.**

FINALS: Students will be given a set of photos, list of stories and story lengths measured in column inches. All necessary layout supplies to construct a page design will be provided. **Students may bring blank paper, pencils, pens, or markers, but no additional materials such as newspapers, magazines, layout guides, samples, idiom dictionaries etc., will be allowed in the contest room.**

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NEWS WRITING (NEWSPAPER) – Individual Event:

Criteria for judging: Timeliness, accuracy, balance, news judgment, significance, journalistic style, and objectivity. Attach a completed contest label to the back of each entry. Headlines may be included. **If other elements (parts of other articles, artwork, etc.) or pages cannot be cut from the entry, draw an X through them.**

FINALS: Students will interview a source or be given a fact sheet on a topic and write a news story from the information obtained. Final will be on a computer. **Students may bring blank paper, pencils, pens, or markers, but no additional materials such as newspapers, magazines, writing guides, etc., will be allowed in the contest room.**

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION (YEARBOOK OR NEWSPAPER) – Individual Event:

This category will consist of a photo illustration, which combines a photo or photos with graphics or text, or it may be a photo that has been altered digitally to the extent that it no longer remains a straight photograph. The photo illustration must be created with the intent to publish and include a tear sheet or layout showing the accompanying story. **If other elements (parts of other articles, artwork, etc.) or pages that do not relate cannot be cut from the entry, draw an X through them.** Criteria for judging - originality and composition. An entry will be composed of one print.

FINALS: Medals will be awarded based on preliminary results.

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SPORTS/ACTION PHOTOGRAPHY (NEWSPAPER OR YEARBOOK) – Individual Event:

Criteria for judging: Composition, impact, and quality. The work of three individual students can be entered in this contest. **An entry is composed of three (3) photos per photographer.** Photos need not have been published. If fewer or more than three photos are submitted per photographer, the entry will be disqualified. **Submit all Sports/Action photos digitally on a CD. Label each photo file with Class (A1-D), School, student name, and entry number.** (Example: A1 Millard West_JaimeSullivan1, A1_MillardWest_JaimeSullivan2, A1_MillardWest_JaimeSullivan3, etc.) **Label this CD “Sports/Action Photography” and place the completed contest label(s) for all these entries on the CD cover or envelope.** Note: A school may submit all three of its Sports/Action Photo entries on one CD.

Do not submit negatives or printed images. You may include a thumbnail index print for identification purposes, but judges will only consider the digital images in the competition.

FINALS: Medals will be awarded based on preliminary results.

NEWS/FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHY (YEARBOOK OR NEWSPAPER) – Individual Event:

Criteria for judging: Composition, impact, and quality. The work of three individual students can be entered in this contest. **An entry is composed of three (3) photos per photographer.** Photos need not have been published. If fewer or more than three photos are submitted per photographer, the entry will be disqualified. **Submit all News/Feature photos digitally on a CD. Label each photo file with Class (A1-D), School, student name, and entry number.** (Example: A1 Millard West_JaimeSullivan1, A1_Millard West_JaimeSullivan2, A1_MillardWest_JaimeSullivan3, etc.) **Label this CD “News/Feature Photography” and place the completed contest label(s) for all these entries on the CD cover or envelope.** Note: A school may submit all three of its News/Feature Photo entries on one CD.

Do not submit negatives or printed images. You may include a thumbnail index print for identification purposes, but judges will only consider the digital images in the competition.

FINALS: Students will provide their own camera with digital media storage device. Competitors will be given a photo assignment(s), with a one-hour time limit. Students will submit their storage device to the contest moderator. The entire disk may be judged. The contest director reserves the right to amend the specifics after contacting all final contestants about their camera capabilities.

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SPORTS FEATURE WRITING (NEWSPAPER) – Individual Event:

Criteria for judging: The entry should be a feature-oriented, sports angle story. Examples would be sports personality features, changes in rules, injuries, individuals who are behind the scenes in athletics, and any other feature story with a sports angle. Attach a completed contest label to the back of each entry. Headlines may be included. **If other elements (parts of other articles, artwork, etc.) or pages cannot be cut from the entry, draw an X through them.**

FINALS: Students will interview a source or be given a fact sheet on a topic and write a sports feature story from information obtained. Final will be written on a computer. **Students may bring blank paper, pencils, pens, or markers, but no additional materials such as newspapers, magazines, writing guides, etc., will be allowed in the contest room.**

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SPORTS NEWS/GAME COVERAGE (NEWSPAPER OR YEARBOOK) – Individual Event:

Criteria for judging: Timeliness, accuracy, balance, news judgment, significance, journalistic style, and objectivity. Attach a completed contest label to the back of each entry. Headlines may be included. **If other elements (parts of other articles, artwork, etc.) or pages cannot be cut from the entry, draw an X through them.**

FINALS: The final contest may focus on game coverage, and may include a short video and/or handouts of statistics, coach and player quotes and other background information. Final will be written on a computer. **Students may bring blank paper, pencils, pens, or markers, but no additional materials such as newspapers, magazines, writing guides, etc., will be allowed in the contest room.**

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YEARBOOK FEATURE WRITING (YEARBOOK) – Individual Event:

Criteria for judging: Accuracy, quality of writing and reader appeal. The entry may be a photocopy of original yearbook pages as it appeared, a 75% laser printout, or entry should be typed and double-spaced. Attach a completed contest label to the back of each entry. Do not send “philosophical” copy as found in opening, closing or division pages of the yearbook. (This does not, however, automatically exclude division page copy if it is written as a feature.) Headlines may be included. **If other elements (parts of other articles, artwork, etc.) or pages cannot be cut from the entry, draw an X through them.**

FINALS: Students will be given a fact sheet or take part in an interview session from which to write a block of copy. Final will be written on a computer. **Students may bring blank paper, pencils, pens, or markers, but no additional materials such as newspapers, magazines, writing guides, etc., will be allowed in the contest room.**

**** Remember to attach all entries smaller than 8 by 10 inches to an 8 1/2 by 11-inch mount ****

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YEARBOOK LAYOUT (YEARBOOK) – Individual Event:

Criteria for judging: Principles of good layout, creativity and neatness. The entry will consist of a double-page spread. Attach a completed contest label to the back of each entry. The entries may be drawn on the layout sheets provided by your publishing company or may be computer printouts or photocopies. If submitting a drawn layout sheet, or computer printout **without elements in place**, describe what will go in each picture.

FINALS: Student will be given a set of photos, copy block and headline. All necessary layout supplies to construct a page, including layout sheets, will be provided. Students must have a working knowledge of cropping and proportioning photos. **Students may bring blank paper, pencils, pens, or markers, but no additional materials such as newspapers, magazines, layout guides, samples, idiom dictionaries etc., will be allowed in the contest room.**

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YEARBOOK THEME DEVELOPMENT (YEARBOOK) – Team Event - 3 Students Maximum:

Criteria for judging: Creativity, writing ability, establishment of theme, and freshness of approach. Students can submit opening and division page copy, layouts, cover design, end sheet design, etc. Photocopies or computer printouts will also be accepted. **Group these theme pages together in a notebook, binder or folder.** Attach a completed contest label to the back of each entry. It is understood that theme development may be a team effort, and a team shall consist of no more than three students. Reminder: A maximum of three students may compete in the finals in this event.

FINALS: Students will be asked to sketch an opening page design and write an opening copy block. All necessary layout supplies to construct a page, including layout sheets, will be provided. **Students may bring blank paper, pencils, pens, or markers, but no additional materials such as newspapers, magazines, layout guides, samples, idiom dictionaries etc., will be allowed in the contest room.**

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YEARBOOK SPORTS FEATURE WRITING (YEARBOOK) – Individual Event:

Criteria for judging: Accuracy, quality of writing and reader appeal. The entry should be yearbook feature-oriented from the sports section. The entry must be a photocopy of original yearbook pages as it appeared, a 75% laser printout, or a typed and double-spaced sheet of paper. Headlines may be included. **If other elements (parts of other articles, artwork, etc.) or pages cannot be cut from the entry, draw an X through them.** Attach a completed contest label to the back of the entry.

FINALS: Students will be given a fact sheet on a sports topic and be asked to write a sports feature story suitable for a yearbook. Finals will be written on a computer. **Students may bring blank paper, pencils, pens, or markers, but no additional materials such as newspapers, magazines, writing guides, etc., will be allowed in the contest room.**

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YEARBOOK THEME COPY WRITING (YEARBOOK) – Individual Event:

Criteria for judging: accuracy, quality of writing and reader appeal. **Each entry is composed of two samples written by any one student from the opening or closing and/or any division spreads.** If the writing is a feature, enter it under the Yearbook Feature Writing or Yearbook Sports Feature Writing categories. This contest is for the more “philosophical” or general theme related copy. The entry must be a photocopy of original yearbook pages as it appeared, a 75% laser printout, or a typed and double-spaced sheet of paper. Headlines may be included. **If other elements (parts of other articles, artwork, etc.) or pages cannot be cut from the entry, draw an X through them.** Attach a contest label to the back of the entry. NOTE: Use labels 1a and 1b for your school’s first student entry. Affix labels 2a and 2b to your school’s second student entry, etc. **Staple the two samples comprising one entry.**

FINALS: Students will be asked to write opening and closing copy and copy for one division page after being given a sample theme. Finals will be written on a computer. **Students may bring blank paper, pencils, pens, or markers, but no additional materials such as newspapers, magazines, writing guides, etc., will be allowed in the contest room.**

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Journalism Classifications for 2009 State Contest

Schools are placed into classes according to the NSAA enrollment figures for the current year. All schools with an enrollment of 1,100 students or more are classified as A1. Schools between 500-1,099 are Class A2, between 201-499 are Class B, between 101-200 are Class C and the remainder are Class D. Schools listed here have registered this year with the NSAA. Note: total enrollment figures for unisex schools are not doubled for non-athletic activities.

Class A1 - 1,100 or Higher

Omaha Central	1989
Millard North	1857
Millard West	1595
Grand Island	1559
Millard South	1555
Omaha Westside	1491
Omaha North	1482
Lincoln Southwest	1391
Omaha South	1386
Omaha Bryan	1352
Lincoln North Star	1283
Lincoln Southeast	1250
Lincoln High	1234
Bellevue West	1215
Bellevue East	1182
Papillion-La Vista South	1167
Omaha Benson	1126
Lincoln East	1112

Class A2 – 500-1,099

Papillion-La Vista	1082
Lincoln Northeast	1074
Kearney	1056
Fremont	1026
North Platte	940
Elkhorn	906
Columbus	893
South Sioux City	818
Ralston	804
Lincoln Pius X	777
Hastings	711
Scottsbluff	693
Blair	562
Gering	535
Northwest	528
Omaha Skutt Catholic	518
Gretna	516
Omaha Marian	486* Opts Up

Class B – 201-499

Norris	443
Alliance	429
McCook	399
Waverly	382
Crete	382
Schuyler	354
Omaha Gross Catholic	349
Nebraska City	321
Ogallala	282
Adams Central	274
Omaha Mercy	270
Columbus Lakeview	253
Fairbury	233
Omaha Duchesne Academy	210
Broken Bow	205

Class C – 101-200

Wayne	195
Pierce	191
Mitchell	165
Fort Calhoun	162
Columbus Scotus	160
David City	159
Centennial	159
Wood River	149
Centura	148
St. Paul	145
Southern Valley	142
Mount Michael Benedictine	140
Grand Island Central Catholic	131
North Bend Central	128
Johnson County Central	127
Yutan	122
Aquinas Catholic	101

Class D – 100 or less

Omaha Brownell-Talbot	95
Heartland	92
Johnson-Brock	91
Elm Creek	89
Friend	85
Dundy County-Stratton	84
Amherst	78
Creek Valley	77
Scribner-Snyder	76
Silver Lake	73
Eustis-Farnam	72
Wilcox-Hildreth	71
Dorchester	67
Chambers	53
Falls City Sacred Heart	49
Pope John	48
Clay Center	47
Hayes Center	38
Rock County	33
Wheeler Central	31