



# On-site contests & critiques

## Best of Show

All high school staffs (with students attending) and junior high advisers are invited to enter their newspaper, yearbook, newsmagazine, broadcast production, literary arts magazine or website in the NSPA Best of Show competition in Seattle.

The competition is offered during each JEA/NSPA convention. Best of Show winners will be announced at the awards ceremony at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 14.

Newspapers, newsmagazines and broadcasts must be published between Aug. 1, 2011, and the start of the convention. Only 2010-2011 yearbooks and literary magazines will be accepted. Websites must have been updated since Jan. 1, 2012. No interactive yearbooks can be accepted.

### NSPA Best of Show competition rules:

- High school publication staffs must have at least one student representative registered for the convention in order to be eligible for the Best of Show competition. Junior high publications may be entered as long as the adviser is a registered delegate at the convention.
- A special-edition newspaper/newsmagazine should meet one or more of these qualifications: anniversary commemoration; extra edition or thematic coverage (majority of coverage devoted to one topic). Schools may enter one issue of their newspaper or newsmagazine in the regular newspaper or newsmagazine categories and one issue in the special edition newspaper/newsmagazine category. No issue or edition may be entered in more than one category.

- Broadcast entries will consist of a single program on DVD, which may not be longer than 20 minutes. Please label DVDs with school and program name. All broadcasts — both audio and video entries — will be judged together. Dependent on entry totals, broadcast programs may be divided into categories based on airing frequency.
- Member publications of any kind may enter in the website category. Entries will be judged for general excellence in coverage, interactivity, breaking news, design and rich media. Entries will be divided into categories based on school enrollment.
- Non-special edition newspaper and yearbook categories are divided according to publication size. Junior high publications are judged in separate newspaper and yearbook categories. Newsmagazines and literary arts magazines compete in separate categories.
- First-place winners in each category will receive trophy cups. Second through 10th place winners receive award certificates. Some categories may have fewer than 10 places due to the number of entries.
- Publications must submit their entry on-site at the Best of Show desk near convention registration. There is no longer an entry form to complete. Do not mail entries to NSPA prior to the convention.

NSPA membership is required to participate in all contests at the high school level; junior high/middle school entries do not require NSPA membership at this time. Entry fee is \$10 per category, payable by cash, check or credit card. Entry fees may be prepaid using the convention registration form, provided your NSPA membership is current for each publication entering.

## On-site Critiques

Both beginning and experienced advisers and staff can benefit from the on-site critique, which is available to all convention registrants for \$30. Staff members and advisers will sit down with an experienced adviser or professional journalist and go over the school's most recent publications or broadcasts. This one-on-one opportunity allows staffs to ask questions and get clarifications as needed. Each critique will last 30 minutes.

Preregistration is required for all media for purpose of scheduling judges and times. **To request a critique, complete the form and send it with payment, postmarked by March 3, 2012**, so evaluators will have time to critique the material prior to the start of the convention. Materials postmarked after that date will not be critiqued and will be returned at the convention.

**Critique assignments with critiquer's addresses will be emailed to each adviser before the convention, and the adviser will be responsible for mailing the publication or emailing the website address to the critiquer by March 26.** All information will also be available at the critique registration desk. Advisers and critiquers will be given each other's email addresses and cell phone numbers to enable them to work out a meeting time if the assigned time does not work. Registrants should check the schedule at the Critiques desk before 8 a.m. Friday to verify their appointments and see if changes have been made. Critiques are scheduled on Friday and Saturday beginning at 8 a.m.

Schools should send up to three different issues of their newspapers/newsmagazines or one copy of their most recent literary magazine, yearbook or DVD. New to this convention, online publications will be critiqued on site. Advisers will be asked to send the publication's website prior to the convention. Because of concerns of Internet reliability, online publications should bring screenshots of the website. Yearbook staffs may submit either CDs or DVDs with PDFs of their current books if they'd like a more up-to-date critique. Please address any questions or concerns to Casey Henry, email: caseycombshenry@gmail.com. Be sure to put "On-Site Critiques" in the subject line. Registration forms and payment should be mailed to **Casey Henry, 27651 Maple Ridge Way SE, Maple Valley, WA 98038**. Checks should be made payable to WJEA.

### Type of media:

(use a separate form for each category)

- Newspaper (up to three issues)
- Newsmagazine
- Literary magazine
- Yearbook
- Online publication
- Video Broadcast

**Deadline:** postmarked by March 3, 2012

**Send form and the \$30 fee (payable to WJEA) to:**

Casey Henry  
27651 Maple Ridge Way SE  
Maple Valley, WA 98038

School	Publication/Production Name	
Address		
City	State	Zip
Adviser	Phone	
Email Address	Cell Phone (for on-site communication with critiquer)	

### All Entries: Time Preference (critiques last 30 minutes)

- Friday a.m.
- Friday p.m.
- Saturday a.m.
- Saturday p.m.

School Enrollment	Staff Size	Means of distribution?	Means of financing?
-------------------	------------	------------------------	---------------------

### Yearbook and Literary Magazine only:

Price	Number Sold	When are books distributed?
Ad rates?		Describe theme or continuity of ideas

### Newspaper and Newsmagazine only:

Frequency of Distribution	Circulation	What are the ad rates?
---------------------------	-------------	------------------------

**Is beginning journalism a prerequisite for participation?**

- Yes
- No

**Does the staff have a class period in which to work?**

- Yes
- No

**Pct. work done by students:** Typesetting [ %] Paste-up [ %] DTP [ %] Photo [ %]