

2011-2012 SSP Individual Newspaper Contest Info And Entry Submission Rules

Individual Newspaper Entry Guidelines

- Only items published in the 2011-2012 newspaper/newsmagazine are eligible
- Only SSP member schools may enter the contest
- Each school may submit no more than **15** total individual entries and a maximum of **3** per category
- Each entry must include a tear sheet from the 2011-2012 newspaper/newsmagazine
- Each entry must have the **Individual Newspaper Entry ID** filled out completely and stapled in the upper left corner
- Copy and photo entries must be circled or otherwise noted on the page
- Please fold all pages in half for submission
- Each entry must be submitted separately (no more than one item on a page may be entered at a time)
- Do not enter the same item in multiple categories
- All photo submissions must include an original print or high quality laser print of the photograph taken by a student photographer (no larger than 8 x 10) and a tear sheet from the 2011-2012 newspaper.
- Entries that are not submitted correctly will be disqualified
- Bundle contest entries together and place the **Individual Newspaper Submission Record** on top
- Send payment/PO with the **Contest Payment Form** to Otto Schultejeans, SSP Treasurer (info on form)
- Entry forms and material may be hand delivered at the SSP meeting on **Jan. 11**, at Clayton High School
- Entry forms and material may be postmarked by **Jan. 6** so they arrive by **Jan. 11**, to:

Parkway Central High School

Tara Stepanek

369 North Woods Mill Rd.

Chesterfield, Mo., 63017

Individual Newspaper Art Categories/Descriptions

- **Editorial Cartoons (NA 1):** An editorial cartoon should be simple in design, centered on one topic, timely and well-drawn. The cartoon should clearly illustrate ideas without extensive written explanation. You may send in the article that the cartoon illustrated along with the cartoon; however, an editorial cartoon should make a statement by itself.
- **Illustrations (NA 2):** Designed to complement non-editorial material. The connected story should be submitted with the illustration. It may be hand drawn or computer generated.
- **Infographics (NA 3):** Informational graphics (any complex map, chart or diagram used to analyze an event, object or place) should contain both text and illustrations or images. It must credit its sources and artists. The infographic may be part of another page submitted for competition in the page design categories, but will be judged for its individual merits in this category. The connected story also should be submitted.

Individual Newspaper Photo Categories/Descriptions

(See submission requirements at top of page)

- **News/Feature Photography (NP 1):** The quality, content and imagination will be considered. Photos should be of a timely event or stress the human interest aspect of photography.
- **Sports Photography (NP 2):** The quality, content and imagination will be considered. Photos should emphasize the action or feature elements of any sports event.

Individual Newspaper Design Categories/Descriptions

- **Newspaper Front Page Design (ND 1):** Page should reflect personality of the publication. Readability of the nameplate, use of headline type and packaging of content will be considered. The page should attempt to feature more than one story and photo.
- **News magazine Cover Design (ND 2):** Page should reflect personality of the publication and its ability to marry formula to format. Readability of nameplate, use of headline type, art and packaging will be considered.
- **Inside Page Design (ND 3):** This entry should be a single page, which showcases feature, entertainment or news writing/content. The use of headline type and packaging of content will be considered here.
- **Doubletruck Design (ND 4):** Telling a story on two pages, this entry should reflect good use of dominance as well as packaging related items in an attractive manner. The use of headline type, photos, graphs, charts, pull quotes, etc., will be considered here.
- **Opinion Page Design (ND 5):** Opinion pages should follow a consistent format and include appropriate masthead, editorials, cartoons, letters, columns etc. Uses design elements appropriately and creatively. Design should enhance readability.
- **Sports Page Design (ND 6):** A single page which contains sports coverage only. Uses design elements appropriately and creatively. Design should enhance readability.

Individual Newspaper Copy Categories/Descriptions

- **News Story (NC 1):** These stories should cover a timely event. Leads should capture the reader's interest and be based on the five W's and H, but may be "direct" or "delayed." Content should include good use of quotes, both direct and indirect, from appropriate sources, as well as strong organization and transitions and no reporter's opinion. Story should seek a fresh angle for annual or routine stories. Length is appropriate and fully develops the story.
- **Feature Story (NC 2):** These articles may be news-features (timely nature, but reveal the human side of the news) or be more of a traditional human interest or personality profile.
- **Staff Editorial (NC 3):** These pieces should reflect the conscience of the publication. As such, they should NOT have a byline, but may use the pronoun "we." Each editorial should state purpose and use logical development. Triteness and wordiness should be avoided. Facts must be carefully verified by reliable research. Argumentation is important in this category.
- **Commentary (NC 4):** These bylined opinion pieces reveal one writer's views. Entries may be by a regular columnist or a one-time opinion piece. They are not editorials (because they are not the staff's opinion). This category includes sports columns.
- **Reviews (NC 5):** These articles should present an evaluation of a CD (album), book, movie, concert, play, restaurant or television program. While plot may be included, it should not be in the primary focus of the story. All artistic aspects of the genre, such as style, directing, acting and cinematography, etc. should be considered.
- **In-Depth Story (NC 6):** These stories include investigative reporting on a wide range of topics of current interest to students. They should show evidence of thorough and objective research and present a clarifying view, exploring the why's of a problem. Entries can be a single article, a series of articles or a collection of articles on a given topic and may appear in more than one issue.
- **Sports News Story (NC 7):** May include all types of sports news including advance game or issue-oriented. While emphasizing an original angle, sports stories should feature ample quote use and avoid the typical cheerleading stat festival.
- **Sports Feature Story (NC 8):** This category is for sports features, which emphasize reader interest. Necessary facts do not smother the human angle or the lively style. Features should demonstrate a commitment to sophisticated sourcing and a concern for the topic.