

2025 LSPA NEWSPAPER CONTEST CATEGORIES

Be sure to let us know which entries you wish to be considered for which categories below (limit TWO entries per school per category):

Writing

- **News Story (advance or coverage):** Articles entered should report new facts on planned or past actions or developments with straightforwardness and objectivity.
- **Editorial Writing:** An editorial is an article that presents the newspaper's opinion on an issue. Great pieces have a clear stance and present solutions for change.
- **Personal Column:** Represents the strong, informed, and focused opinion of the writer on an issue of relevance to a targeted audience. While columns and op-ed pieces allow writers to include their voice and express an opinion to be successful, the columns must be grounded in solid research. Research involves acquiring facts, quotations, citations, or data from sources and personal observation. Research also allows a reader to include sensory data (touch, taste, smell, sound, or sight) in a column.
- **Feature Story (excluding sports):** 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 descriptive than straight news.
- **Headline Writing:** The title above a story in a newspaper, magazine or newsletter is called a headline in print journalism. It has the same function in mass media writing as a lead—to call attention to the story, to snare people in. Headlines need to be accurate, first, and fairly reflect the theme of the story. Most readers don't realize that those who write stories, the reporters, seldom write their own headlines. They may suggest headlines, but more often, space needs or other considerations force an editor to fashion something different.
- **Sports Game or Tournament Coverage:** A single story providing coverage of a game, match, meet or sports event. Tournaments can serve as a single event.
- **Sports Season Preview or Recap:** A single story looking ahead to a single team's coming season or looking back at a season just concluded.
- **Sports Column:** A single column reflecting the writer's opinions about a sports topic or issue.
- **Sports Feature:** A single story about a player, coach or sports issue or topic. Event coverage is excluded.

Photography

- Photo (excluding sports): News photos capture actions or reactions to a news event. Any single photo that appeared in a member publication and was taken by a staff member is eligible.
- Photo (sports): Sports photos capture actions or reactions involving athletic events or athletes. Any single photo that appeared in a member publication and was taken by a staff member is eligible.
- Photo Essay (sports or non-sports): A collection of prints displayed in some fashion, including a book, a poster, a storyboard, or any method of presenting a collection of prints that can be physically managed by the entrant.

Art and Graphics

- Infographic: Infographics are graphic visual representations of information, data or knowledge intended to present information quickly and clearly. Please denote use of a template or graphic generator.
- Cartoon Strips: Any single cartoon or series, humorous or other, which was student-drawn and printed during the contest period is eligible.
- Editorial/Political Cartoon: Editorial cartoons draw attention to important political, economic, and social issues like nothing else. Using symbols or visual metaphors, their reach transcends country borders and language barriers.

Other Categories

- Best News Website: A good news website is well-organized and easily navigable. A good news website is updated regularly and accurately.
- Best Print Newspaper: A good newspaper is the voice of the student body. It keeps its audience in the know about student life while being truthful and creative.

Please refer to the above category descriptions so that you'll know how the LSPA defines categories and the elements judges will use to determine winning submissions. Remember to let us know which TWO entries you would like considered for each category.

Questions? Contact Kyrin Lewis at ispamanship@lsu.edu.