

## **PRINT LG: (75,000 + circ.)**

Journalists are eligible whose work had significant reach into Ohio during 2017. Entrants need not be SPJ members.

### **Best Arts Profile**

One story that profiles an individual in arts at the state or local level.

### **Best Arts Reporting**

Outstanding coverage of arts or entertainment, demonstrated by a selection of three news or feature articles by a single writer.

### **Best Business Profile**

One story that profiles an individual in business or development at the state or local level.

### **Best Business Reporting**

Outstanding coverage of business or development, demonstrated by a selection of three articles by a writer or team, such as in a series.

### **Best Children's Issues Reporting**

Reporting that best serves the needs of children, either by exposing an abuse or exploring solutions to challenges faced by youth, demonstrated by one article.

### **Best Consumer Reporting**

Reporting that informs readers about a consumer product hazard or exposes questionable behavior in the marketplace, demonstrated by three articles.

### **Best Criminal Justice Reporting**

Submit three stories on crime or a law enforcement issue, including stories from the courts.

### **Best Deadline Reporting**

Coverage of a disaster or major news event published within 24 hours, and demonstrating excellent teamwork and use of real people to tell the stories. Submit three articles.

### **Best Editorial Page Campaign**

An editorial page effort that exposes inadequacy and leads to change, demonstrated by three samples. May include unsigned editorials, signed columns, cartoons and reader response.

### **Best Education Issues Reporting, Higher Ed**

Submit three stories on higher education issues and institutions through breaking news, investigative reporting and enterprise stories.

## **Best Education Issues Reporting, K-12**

Submit three stories on education issues and schools that aid the public through revealing breaking news, investigative reporting and enterprise stories.

## **Best Environment Reporting**

Coverage that best served to improve the environment, such as by revealing a trouble spot or otherwise spotlighting an environmental topic, demonstrated by three articles.

## **Best Explanatory Journalism**

Reporting that explains a public issue or need. May include words, photos and graphics and the use of real people to tell the story. Submit one article.

## **Best Feature Reporting**

Submit three articles that demonstrate creativity in a human interest, non-breaking news event.

## **Best Government Reporting**

Outstanding individual or team coverage of city, county or state government. Include three articles or series.

## **Best Headline Writing**

Outstanding headline writing. Include six headlines that are creative, concise or otherwise effective in conveying the essence of a story or pulling readers in.

## **Best Human Interest Writing**

A single human interest feature.

## **Best Investigative Reporting**

Reporting in the public interest, showing use of database reporting and public records law, outstanding writing, photos and graphics, demonstrated by one article or series supported by photos and graphics.

## **Best Media Criticism**

For reporting, commentary or an academic research paper on a news media controversy or shortcoming, demonstrated by one article.

## **Best Medical / Science Reporting**

Coverage that enlightens readers about medicine or science, demonstrated by one article.

## **Best Minority Issues Reporting**

Submit one article that best addresses the issues and challenges faced by a minority group.

## **Best Newsmaker Profile**

One story that profiles an individual local or state newsmaker.

## **Best Political Commentary**

One example of signed commentary that demonstrates outstanding opinion or analysis of state or local candidates or issues.

## **Best Political Reporting**

Three stories that demonstrate outstanding coverage of state or local candidates or issues.

## **Best Public Records Use**

One story that uses Ohio public records law or the federal Freedom of Information Act to uncover information of vital community interest.

## **Best Public Service Journalism**

Best effort by a publication or journalist to connect with the community in a different way, such as by encouraging civic or political engagement or participation, demonstrated by one article.

## **Best Religion Reporting**

One story that explores spirituality, the search for faith in modern life, or issues and challenges religious communities face.

## **Best Rock and Roll Commentary / Best Music Review**

Best example of single commentary or review that offers opinion or analysis of rock and roll musicians and trends in the music.

## **Best Rock and Roll Feature Writing**

Best example of feature writing about rock and roll musicians and music. Submit one article.

## **Best Social Issues Reporting**

Submit one story on social justice issues, such as poverty, homelessness, substandard housing, public health or social work.

## **Best Sports Profile**

One story that profiles an individual in sports at the state or local level.

## **Best Sports Reporting**

Outstanding coverage of sports, demonstrated by three articles by a writer or team.

## **Best Website**

For the best website by a publication. Provide your web address for judges to access.

## **BEST OF SHOW--PRINT (75,000 + circ.)**

Journalists are eligible whose work had significant reach into Ohio during 2017. Entrants need not be SPJ members.

### **Best Columnist in Ohio**

A portfolio of six columns by a single writer.

### **Best Critic in Ohio**

A portfolio of the work of a single critic, with six examples. The work may include reviews of plays, movies, restaurants, or the visual or performing arts.

### **Best Daily Newspaper**

Four editions of a daily newspaper. Judges will look at reporting, writing, photography, use of graphics and illustrations and overall design quality of all sections. Submit PDFs.

### **Best Defense of Literacy**

A published story or project conducted by the publication that seeks to increase literacy in a community.

### **Best Defense of the First Amendment**

A published story or editorial or legal action pursued by a news organization that battles censorship or gains access to government places or proceedings.

### **Best Graphic Designer in Ohio**

Submit three examples of page design and/or art illustration by a single graphic artist.

### **Best Page One Design**

Submit front pages of three editions of the newspaper.

### **Best Photographer in Ohio**

A portfolio of the work of a single photographer, including six examples of deadline and or non-deadline images.

### **Best Reporter in Ohio**

A portfolio of work by one reporter. Include six examples that show a balance of deadline, non-deadline, and feature writing.

### **Best Special Publication**

A freestanding publication, such as a reprint, book or other editorial product with outstanding content and design. Submit PDF.

## **Best Special Section**

A single special section or insert published on any topic. Submit PDF.

## **Best Videographer**

Best visual storyteller for a print publication who demonstrates excellence in videography and sound in spot news, general assignment or specialty reporting, demonstrated by three samples.

## **PRINT SM: (< 75,000 circ)**

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## **Best Education Issues Reporting, K-12**

Submit three stories on education issues and schools that aid the public through revealing breaking news, investigative reporting and enterprise stories.

## **Best Environment Reporting**

Coverage that best served to improve the environment, such as by revealing a trouble spot or otherwise spotlighting an environmental topic, demonstrated by three articles.

## **Best Explanatory Journalism**

Reporting that explains a public issue or need. May include words, photos and graphics and the use of real people to tell the story. Submit one article.

## **Best Feature Reporting**

Submit three articles that demonstrate creativity in a human interest, non-breaking news event.

## **Best Government Reporting**

Outstanding individual or team coverage of city, county or state government. Include three articles or series.

## **Best Headline Writing**

Outstanding headline writing. Include six headlines that are creative, concise or otherwise effective in conveying the essence of a story or pulling readers in.

## **Best Human Interest Writing**

A single human interest feature.

## **Best Investigative Reporting**

Reporting in the public interest, showing use of database reporting and public records law, outstanding writing, photos and graphics, demonstrated by one article or series supported by photos and graphics.

## **Best Media Criticism**

For reporting or commentary on a news media controversy or shortcoming, demonstrated by one article.

## **Best Medical / Science Reporting**

Coverage that enlightens readers about medicine or science, demonstrated by one article.

### **Best Minority Issues Reporting**

Submit one article that best addresses the issues and challenges faced by a minority group.

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One example of signed commentary that demonstrates outstanding opinion or analysis of state or local candidates or issues.

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Submit three articles that demonstrate outstanding coverage of state or local candidates or issues.

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Best example of commentary or review that offers opinion or analysis of rock and roll musicians and trends in the music.

### **Best Rock and Roll Feature Writing**

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A single story that profiles an individual in sports at the state or local level.

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A portfolio of six columns by a single writer.

## **Best Critic**

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## **Best Daily Newspaper**

Four editions of a daily newspaper. Judges will look at reporting, writing, photography, use of graphics and illustrations and overall design quality of all sections. Submit PDFs.

## **Best Defense of Literacy**

A published story or project conducted by the publication that seeks to increase literacy in a community.

## **Best Defense of the First Amendment**

For a published story or editorial or legal action pursued by a news organization that battles censorship or gains access to government places or proceedings.

## **Best Graphic Designer**

Submit three examples of page design and/or art illustration by a single graphic artist.

## **Best Monthly**

Two issues of a monthly magazine that is not a trade publication (see separate category). Judges will look for outstanding journalism creatively presented. Submit PDF.

## **Best Page One Design**

Submit front pages of three editions of the newspaper.

## **Best Photographer**

A portfolio of the work of a single photographer, including six examples of deadline and non-deadline images.

## **Best Reporter in Ohio**

A portfolio of work by one reporter. Include six examples that show a balance of deadline, non-deadline, and feature writing.

## **Best Special Publication**

A freestanding publication, such as a reprint, book or other editorial product with outstanding content and design. Submit PDF.

## **Best Special Section**

A single special section or insert published on any topic. Submit PDF.

## **Best Videographer**

Best visual storyteller for a print publication who demonstrates excellence in videography and sound in spot news, general assignment or specialty reporting, demonstrated by three samples.

## **Best Weekly Newspaper**

Six editions of one weekly newspaper. Judges will look for serious journalism that serves the community through outstanding reporting, effectively presented. Submit PDF.

# **TELEVISION**

Stations in all markets compete against each other. Journalists are eligible whose work had significant reach into Ohio during 2017. Entrants need not be SPJ members.

## **Best Consumer Reporting**

Reports (up to three) that expose products or companies that cheat consumers, or which offer news of new products or services. Can be breaking or investigative.

## **Best Continuing Coverage**

Reports (up to three) that demonstrate individual or team continued excellence as new information is uncovered beyond the initial event.

## **Best Criminal Justice Reporting**

Report (one) demonstrating excellence in coverage of any facet of law enforcement, from initial field report through the court system.

## **Best Documentary**

Best long-form program appearing outside a regular newscast, covering human interest, sports, entertainment, investigative or any other single topic or event.

## **Best Education Issues Reporting, Higher Ed**

Report (one) showing a pattern of reporting on Ohio public and private colleges and universities. Includes breaking news, investigative and enterprise stories.

## **Best Education Issues Reporting. K-12**

Report (one) demonstrating a pattern of reporting on K-12 education and schools. Includes breaking news and investigative and enterprise stories.

## **Best Enterprise Reporting**

Report (one) that shows initiative and creative individuality in uncovering news other outlets missed.

## **Best Environment Reporting**

Reports (up to three) that demonstrate best coverage of environmental issues, be they of a breaking or investigative nature.

## **Best Feature Reporting**

Reports (up to three) that demonstrate creativity in a human interest, non-breaking news event.

## **Best General Assignment Reporting**

Reports (up to three) that demonstrates accuracy, initiative and creativity in a same-day news event.

## **Best Government Reporting**

Best reports (up to three) on the business at hand of local or state government. May be a breaking, continuing or investigative story.

## **Best Health Care Feature Reporting**

Reports (up to three) that demonstrate creativity, originality, depth and clarity in health care reporting.

## **Best Investigative Reporting**

Reporting in the public interest, showing use of database reporting and public records law, outstanding writing, photos and graphics, demonstrated by up to three samples.

## **Best Medical / Health Reporting**

Reports (up to three) that demonstrate best coverage of medical or health issues, be they breaking news or enterprise investigative reports.

## **Best Minority Issues Coverage**

Report (one) or long-form public service program that best shows issues facing minorities, be they racial, sexual or religious.

## **Best Sports Reporting**

Selection of reports (up to three) that demonstrates continuing creativity, originality, depth and clarity in sports reporting.

## **Best Spot News**

Reports (up to three) that best exemplify breaking coverage on a story that's developing as it airs or that airs under deadline within hours of the event.

## **Best Website**

Best website run by a television station. Submit website address for judges to view live.

# **BEST OF SHOW--TELEVISION**

Stations in all markets compete against each other. Journalists are eligible whose work had significant reach into Ohio during 2017.

## **Best Anchor**

Best on-air excellence in delivery, authority, poise, and writing. Include samples from more than one newscast. Maximum time for submission: 15 minutes.

## **Best Editor**

Best use of video and/or sound in editing a quality story or program. Entrant may have gathered own video/sound or edited material gathered by others. Maximum time for submission: 15 minutes.

## **Best News Operation**

Best overall news department to show excellence in newscasts, special reports and any other programming. Maximum time: 30 minutes.

## **Best Newscast**

Best daily newscast. Submit entire program minus commercial breaks.

## **Best Producer**

Best example of a single newscast or special program to include writing, story selection and technical merit. Submit entire program minus commercial breaks.

## **Best Public Affairs Program**

Best public affairs program. Submit entire program minus commercials.

## **Best Reporter**

Best reporter to demonstrate excellence in live and taped segments that show versatility, dependability and creativity in deadline and non-deadline situations. Maximum time for submission: 15 minutes.

## **Best Videographer**

Best visual storyteller who demonstrates excellence in videography and sound in spot news, general assignment or specialty reporting, demonstrated by three samples. Maximum time for submission: 15 minutes.

## **RADIO**

Stations in all markets compete against each other. Journalists are eligible whose work had significant reach into Ohio during 2017. Entrants need not be SPJ members.

## **Best Consumer Reporting**

Reports (up to three) that expose products or companies that cheat consumers, or which offer news of new products or services. Can be breaking or investigative.

## **Best Continuing Coverage**

Reports (up to three) that demonstrate individual or team continued excellence as new information is uncovered beyond the initial event.

## **Best Criminal Justice Reporting**

Report (one) demonstrating excellence in coverage of any facet of law enforcement, from initial field report through the court system.

## **Best Documentary**

Best long-form program appearing outside a regular newscast, covering human interest, sports, entertainment, investigative or any other single topic or event.

## **Best Education Issues Reporting, Higher Ed**

Report (one) demonstrating a pattern of reporting on higher education issues and institutions. Include breaking news, investigative, and enterprise stories.

## **Best Education Issues Reporting, K-12**

Report (one) demonstrating a pattern of reporting on education issues and schools. Include breaking news, investigative reporting and enterprise stories.

## **Best Enterprise Reporting**

Report (one) that shows initiative and creative individuality in uncovering news other outlets missed.

## **Best Environment Reporting**

Reports (up to three) that demonstrate best coverage of environmental issues, be they of a breaking or investigative nature.

## **Best Feature Reporting**

Reports (up to three) that demonstrate creativity in a human interest, non-breaking news event.

### **Best General Assignment Reporting**

Reports (up to three) that demonstrates accuracy, initiative and creativity in a same-day news event.

### **Best Government Reporting**

Reports (up to three) on the business at hand of local or state government. May be a breaking, continuing or investigative story.

### **Best Health Care Feature Reporting**

Reports (up to three) that demonstrate creativity, originality, depth and clarity in health care reporting.

### **Best Investigative Reporting**

Reporting in the public interest, showing use of database reporting and public records law, outstanding writing, photos and graphics, demonstrated by up to three samples.

### **Best Medical / Health Reporting**

Reports (up to three) that demonstrate best coverage of medical or health issues, be they breaking news or enterprise investigative reports.

### **Best Minority Issues Coverage**

Report (one) or long-form public service program which best shows issues facing minorities, be they racial, sexual or religious.

### **Best Sports Reporting**

Selection of reports (up to three) that demonstrates continuing creativity, originality, depth and clarity in sports reporting

### **Best Spot News**

Reports (up to three) that best exemplify breaking coverage on a story that's developing as it airs or that airs under deadline within hours of the event.

### **Best Website**

Best website run by a radio station. Submit website address for judges to view live.

## **BEST OF SHOW--RADIO**

Stations in all markets compete against each other. Journalists are eligible whose work had significant reach into Ohio during 2017. Entrants need not be SPJ members.

### **Best Anchor**

Best on-air excellence in delivery, authority, poise, and writing. Include samples from more than one newscast. Maximum time for submission: 15 minutes.

## **Best Editor**

Best use of video and/or sound in editing a quality story or program. Entrant may have gathered own video/sound or edited material gathered by others. Maximum time for submission: 15 minutes.

## **Best News Operation**

Best overall news department to show excellence in newscasts, special reports and any other programming. Maximum tape length: 30 minutes.

## **Best Newscast**

Best daily newscast. Submit entire program minus commercial breaks.

## **Best Producer**

Best example of a single newscast or special program to include writing, story selection and technical merit. Submit entire program minus commercial breaks.

## **Best Public Affairs Program**

Best public affairs program. Submit entire program minus commercials.

## **Best Reporter**

Best reporter to demonstrate excellence in live and taped segments that show versatility, dependability and creativity in deadline and non-deadline situations. Maximum time for submission: 15 minutes.

# **DIGITAL MEDIA**

Best online storyteller who demonstrates excellence in spot news, general assignment or specialty reporting. All websites and links must remain active throughout 2018.

## **Best Arts/Entertainment Story**

For the best coverage (story or single series) of an arts/entertainment topic. Judges will look at quality of writing, creativity and overall presentation.

## **Best Business/Tech Story**

For the best coverage (story or single series) of a business or technology topic. Judges will look at quality of writing, sourcing and overall presentation.

## **Best Editorial Writing**

For the single most persuasive editorial that addresses an inadequacy or takes a position on a state or local level issue.

## **Best Feature**

For the best feature story or series. Judges will look at quality of writing, creativity and overall presentation.

## **Best Graphic Design/Navigation**

For the best design and/or art illustration, ease of navigation and quality of links.

## **Best Headline Writing**

For outstanding headline writing. Include six headlines that are creative, concise or otherwise effective in conveying the essence of a story or pulling readers in. Judges will look for reader appeal, impact and/or humor.

## **Best Medical/Science Story**

For the best coverage of a medical or science topic (story or single series). Judges will look at quality of writing, sourcing and overall presentation.

## **Best News Story**

For the best story or single series reflecting hard news of the day. Judges will look at quality of writing, sourcing and overall presentation.

## **Best Photography**

For the best black-white and/or color photography online. Judges will look at technical composition, creativity and overall visual impact. Submit URLs of at least six samples.

## **Best Sports Coverage**

For the best sports reporting (story or single series). Judges will look at quality of writing, sourcing and overall presentation.

## **Best Videographer**

Best visual storyteller who demonstrates excellence in online videography in spot news, general assignment or specialty reporting, demonstrated by three samples.

## **Specialized Journalism Site**

This award recognizes a journalism website that focuses on a single topic. Judges will consider content, ingenuity, interactivity and use of multimedia tools. Each entry should consist of one URL. If affiliated, site should have an independent domain name. If independent, site must be authored by Ohio resident(s). Entries that do not provide a complete and accurate URL will be disqualified. Entrants must keep their nominated entries accessible through 2017.

## **Best Overall Blog (news organization)**

Must be published by an Ohio news organization. Blogs are defined as web pages of commentary or opinion that are updated regularly. Entries will be judged on quality of writing. Submit URLs of three blogs.

## **Best Blog Post (news organization)**

One specific blog post published by an Ohio news organization. Blogs are defined as web pages of commentary or opinion. Entries will be judged on quality of writing. Submit URL.

### **Best Overall Blog (independent)**

Cannot be affiliated with an existing news organization. Blogs are defined as web pages of commentary or opinion that are updated regularly. Entries will be judged on quality of writing. Submit URLs of three blogs.

### **Best Blog Post (independent)**

One specific blog post that cannot be affiliated with an existing news organization. Blogs are defined as web pages of commentary or opinion. Entries will be judged on quality of writing. Submit URL.

## **BEST OF SHOW--DIGITAL MEDIA**

All URL links and all entry links must remain active throughout 2018.

### **Best General News Site**

For the best overall website. Sites will be judged on news content, design and navigation. Submit URL(s).

### **Best Online Still Photographer in Ohio**

A portfolio of the work of a single still photographer whose work is published online, including six examples of deadline and non-deadline images.

## **TRADE PUBLICATIONS**

Journalists are eligible whose work had significant reach into Ohio during 2017. Entrants need not be SPJ members.

### **Best Cover Design**

Submit original, color copies of a cover page (three samples).

### **Best Department**

For the best example of creativity that keeps sections fresh and informative. Submit three consecutive examples.

### **Best Feature Design**

Submit original designs (three samples) that demonstrate creativity for a human interest, non-breaking topic.

### **Best General Story**

For the best single story (travel, entertainment, lifestyle, etc.) published.

### **Best Personality Profile**

For the best single personality profile published.

### **Best Trade Publication Website**

For the best example of a website posted by a trade publication. Submit URL.

### **Best Trade Report**

A story or series on a topic, issue or trend affecting the publication's target audience. You may briefly describe any action or change that resulted.

## **BEST OF SHOW--TRADE PUBLICATIONS**

Journalists are eligible whose work had significant reach into Ohio during 2017. Entrants need not be SPJ members.

### **Best Trade Columnist**

For the best selection of columns. Submit at least two consecutive examples. The column must appear regularly.

### **Best Trade Publication**

For best overall performance of an entire staff. Submit two complete issues. Entries judged on reporting, editing, writing, photography, design, graphics, packaging. Submit PDF.

## **FREELANCE--PRINT LG: (75,000+ circ.)**

Freelance writers are self-employed and not affiliated with any news organization long term, but their work is published by such organizations. For this competition, freelancers may enter any category if their work has been published or broadcast by an Ohio news organization in 2017. However, writers whose work is published outside of Ohio can still compete in the Ohio SPJ Awards program, as long as they are Ohio residents. Simply identify the publishing news organization and circulation when submitting your entry. Freelance entrants may submit their work in both the Freelance categories and standard categories if their work was published by an Ohio news organization.

### **Best News Writing**

Best news writing report that demonstrates outstanding coverage in a breaking news event.

### **Best Feature Writing**

Best feature report that demonstrates creativity in a human interest, non-breaking news event.

### **Best Investigative Reporting (story or series)**

Best investigative reporting in the public interest, showing use of database reporting and public records law, outstanding writing, photos and graphics.

**Best Arts Review (movies, art, music, theatre, etc.)**

Best review of a single opinion or analysis of a movie, music, theatre or art event.

**Best Criticism/Editorial**

Best editorial or column that exposes inadequacy and a need for change.

**Best Government Reporting**

Best government report of a city county or state government.

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**Best Freelance Writer**

Submit five published reports (can be a combination of news writing, feature writing, investigative reporting, reviews, editorials, government reporting, etc., or five reports of the same type).

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**Best News Writing**

Best news writing report that demonstrates outstanding coverage in a breaking news event.

**Best Feature Writing**

Best feature report that demonstrates creativity in a human interest, non-breaking news event.

**Best Investigative Reporting (story or series)**

Best investigative reporting in the public interest, showing use of database reporting and public records law, outstanding writing, photos and graphics.

**Best Arts Review (movies, art, music, theatre, etc.)**

Best review of a single opinion or analysis of a movie, music, theatre or art event.

**Best Criticism/Editorial**

Best editorial or column that exposes inadequacy and a need for change.

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Best government report of a city county or state government.

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**Best News Writing**

Best news writing report that demonstrates outstanding coverage in a breaking news event.

**Best Feature Writing**

Best feature report that demonstrates creativity in a human interest, non-breaking news event.

**Best Investigative Reporting (story or series)**

Best investigative reporting in the public interest, showing use of database reporting and public records law, outstanding writing, photos and graphics.

**Best Arts Review (movies, art, music, theatre, etc.)**

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**Best Government Reporting**

Best government report of a city county or state government.

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**Best Freelance Writer**

Submit five published reports (can be a combination of news writing, feature writing, investigative reporting, reviews, editorials, government reporting, etc., or five reports of the same type).

## **COLLEGE JOURNALISM**

Student work in student publications and stations, published or broadcast in 2017, is eligible for either college or professional categories, but NOT both. Student work in professional publications and stations is NOT eligible for the college category.

**Best College Feature Writing**

Awarded to the college journalist who shows the most promise as a feature writer through published or aired stories.

**Best College News Writing**

Awarded to the college journalist who shows the most promise as a news writer, through published or aired stories.

### **Best College Newspaper: Daily**

For the best student newspaper or publication published regularly 3 or more times a week. Enter three issues. Submit PDF.

### **Best College Newspaper: Non-Daily**

For the best student newspaper or publication published regularly up to twice a week. Enter three issues. Submit PDF.

### **Best College Opinion Writing**

Awarded to the college journalist who show the most promise as an opinion writer through published or aired opinion pieces.

### **Best College Sports Writing**

Awarded to the college journalist who shows the most promise as a sports writer through published or aired stories.