

Categories • MIPA Individual Category Newspaper Contest

To see the judging criteria for these categories, please go to the MIPA Web site at www.mipamsu.org/contests.

1. NEWS STORY

News stories should report but not interpret events that have news value and timeliness to the publication's readers. Either advance or follow-up stories may be included in this category.

2. NEWS ANALYSIS

Stories should be interpretive in nature, not straight news stories. The elements "why" and "how" should be examined through research, but the writer's opinions should not be expressed. An analysis covers issues and problems that relate to specific events of a news nature.

3. EDITORIAL

Editorials should represent the opinion of the staff, editors or editorial board on a timely news matter of concern to the school, community, state, nation or world. They may express appreciation, offer interpretation or attempt to deal with problems. **Editorials are not to be bylined, signed or initialed, or in any way identified as being the opinion of the writer(s).**

4. BYLINED OPINION ARTICLE

Articles of personal opinion, which carry the byline of the writer(s) may comment on any subject of interest (including sports) and/or concern to the readers, or may express dissent from the majority opinion expressed in editorials.

5. REVIEW

Review should present opinions, observations and evaluations of films, books, television, recordings, concerts, plays, restaurants and other things of interest to the paper's readers.

6. FEATURE COLUMN

Each entry must

- have two (2) columns (feature or opinion) from different editions of the newspaper
- have both columns glued to the same entry form
- have the same standing head
- be authored by the same writer(s)
- carry bylines or other writer identification to indicate the personal nature of the content

Judges want to see the writer's consistent quality in more than one column. A school may submit a second entry in this category, and it may be written by the same columnist. Columns related to sports must be submitted under Category 16 (Sports Column).

7. PRO/CON EDITORIAL COLUMNS

Each entry must

- have two (2) columns that express opposing viewpoints on one topic
- the columns should be written by two people and featured on one page of the opinion/editorial section
- both columns should be glued to the same entry form
- have a standing head that indicates the pro/con nature of the package
- carry bylines or other writer identification to indicate the personal opinion nature of the content

A school may submit a second entry in this category, and the pieces may be written by the same columnists or combination including one of the same columnists.

8. IN-DEPTH FEATURE

This is a single story. It may not contain a sidebar or infographic. The story must stand on its own. This is not a spread or a special section. Entries should concern subjects of a substantive and contemporary nature and go beyond the surface facts, give the reader detailed background information with interpretation based upon the facts and background information and

often (but not necessarily) an analysis as to its meaning. It is an elaboration of the WHY. Multiple sources are necessary.

9. INFORMATIVE FEATURE

This is a single story, which should inform or instruct. Facts are obtained from research, interviews and observations.

10. HUMAN INTEREST FEATURE

Human interest features appeal to the emotions of the reader with inspiration, motivation, pathos or humor and often make effective use of quotes. Enter descriptive, personal experience or accomplishment, or humor in this category. These are generally shorter stories.

11. PERSONALITY PROFILE

The personality profile captures the life, interests, accomplishments of well-known or interesting people, based on interviews. The subject(s) should have experiences, thoughts and accomplishments worth reporting. Anecdotes add to the personality profile.

12. DIVERSITY COVERAGE

This story tells about the lifestyles, challenges and potential of those from a diverse background. It will cover not just the plight of the subjects, but may also look at how subjects deal with their diverse backgrounds and how diverse backgrounds are dealt with by others. The term "diverse" is not limited to ethnicity and may focus on a wide range of subjects, depending on the author's story angle.

13. ENVIRONMENTAL STORY

This story will focus on an environmental, health or science topic. It can be a straight news story or an investigative piece.

14. ALTERNATIVE STORY FORM

ASF consists of a whole story told in an alternative way. It can consist of anything that is not a traditional story form. There should be visual destinations, good use of typography, easy to scan, well organized, can provide quick facts and deep context. It should not include traditional narrative. Examples include (but are not limited to) fast-fact boxes, lists, glossaries, quizzes, polls, charts. AFS should not be connected to a story or be part of a story package. It should stand alone. Submit the whole page.

15. SPORTS FEATURE STORY

Stories may include personality profile, informative, interpretive (why), and/or human interest features specifically related to sports.

16. SPORTS COLUMN

Each entry must

- have two (2) columns (feature or opinion) from different editions of the newspaper
- have both columns glued to the same entry form
- have the same standing head
- be authored by the same writer(s)
- carry bylines or other writer identification to indicate the personal nature of the content

A school may submit a second entry in this category, and it may be written by the same columnist. Columns must carry bylines or other writer identification to indicate the personal nature of the content.

17. SPORTS NEWS STORY

Sports news stories may include general sports news or sports events and are constructed in news style.

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For all photo categories #18,19, 20 & 23 (if illustration is a photo). Submit a tear sheet PLUS a print whether it is digital or traditional dark-room technology. If digital use glossy photographic paper.

18. SPORTS PHOTOGRAPH

Any non-portrait action photo directly related to sporting events should be entered in this category. **Submit a student print of any size** and a tear sheet showing how the photo was displayed with story and caption. **YOU MUST INCLUDE THE CAPTION.** Photo may be in color. Photos will be judged on both the quality of the photo as printed and how it was used in the publication.

19. NEWS/FEATURE PHOTOGRAPH

Photos in this category should be non-portrait, non-sports photos based either on on-the-spot coverage of an event that had news value and timeliness, or on the drama and emotion characteristic of features. **Submit a student print of any size** and a tear sheet showing how the photo was displayed with story and caption. **YOU MUST INCLUDE THE CAPTION.** Photo may be in color. Photos will be judged on both the quality of the photo as printed and how it was used in the publication.

20. PORTRAIT

Photos in this category must show the personality and/or character of the people and/or animals photographed. No more than two subjects should be featured in the picture. Sports portraits should be entered in this category. **Submit a student print of any size** and a tear sheet showing how the photo was displayed with story and caption. **YOU MUST INCLUDE THE CAPTION.** Photo may be in color. Photos will be judged on both the quality of the photo as printed and how it was used in the publication.

21. EDITORIAL CARTOON

This category includes only editorial cartoons. This cartoon appears on the editorial/opinion page. It makes a point and delivers commentary or opinion.

22. COMIC STRIP

Each installment of a comic strip counts as a separate entry. The purpose of the comic is to entertain.

23. ILLUSTRATION

This category includes photo illustration, original artwork or original computer artwork used to establish a theme or mood with the intent to enhance any news/feature/sports article. Submit a tear sheet showing how the illustration was used. If photo illustration is submitted, follow instructions above for photo submission.

24. INFORMATION GRAPHIC

This category includes charts, graphs, or diagrams created by hand or by computer and used to supplement or in place of written content, but which give the reader information in a visual form. Submit a tear sheet showing how the information graphics were used.

25. ADVERTISING LAYOUT

This category includes ads for which students have created the artwork or photography, written heads and copy and done the layout. Professionally created logos may be used. Ads should be attractive, informative and give all essential information. This entry is a single advertisement, not a page of advertisements.

26. FRONT PAGE/NEWSMAGAZINE STYLE (regardless of size)

Page contains nameplate and references to inside stories. Page generates reader interest and uses effective photos and/ or artwork. Page will be evaluated for overall use of space.

27. FRONT PAGE/NEWSPAPER STYLE (regardless of size)

Page contains nameplate. No advertising used on this page. Page will be evaluated for content and design and for overall use of space.

28. STORY PACKAGE

Packages will be evaluated for content and design. Content should be based on one significant topic built around a dominant story packaged with or without a secondary story; dominant art and possibly secondary art; and may include other quick reads. The package may start on the front page, jumping inside, or it may start/finish on inside pages. This does not need to be a true spread or full-page design.

29. EDITORIAL OPINION PAGE/SPREAD

Pages will be evaluated for content and design. At least one editorial must appear on the page(s) entered. Other items may include columns, bylined opinion, polls, surveys, reviews, letters and cartoons. The masthead is normally on an opinion page. No advertising would appear on the editorial page, but may be used on the ed-op page.

30. FEATURE PAGE/SPREAD

Pages will be evaluated for content and design. Content may be based on one significant story, a package of related stories, or diverse feature stories. Advertising may or may not be incorporated into the page design.

31. SPORTS PAGE/SPREAD

Pages will be evaluated for content and design. Content is restricted to sports. Advertising may or may not be included on these pages.

32. NEWS PAGE/SPREAD

Pages will be evaluated for content and design. Content is restricted to news. Advertising may or may not be included on these pages.

33. ENTERTAINMENT PAGE/SPREAD

Pages will be evaluated for content and design. Content is restricted to features and news dealing with entertainment (music, plays, movies, reviews). Advertising may or may not be included on these pages.

34. PHOTO STORY

A photo story includes the use of at least three or four photos on a related theme to tell a story. It must include headline and captions and may include copy. **YOU MUST INCLUDE CAPTIONS.** Judging will be on the overall impact of the contents and layout. Submit tear sheet only.

35. PROFESSIONALLY PUBLISHED PAGE

Page has to be published in a professional newspaper. Send complete page. Page will be judged on stories, design and photography. A double page spread is one entry.