

## 2024-2025 Youngstown Press Club Scholastic Journalism Awards Rules

Welcome to the Youngstown Press Club Scholastic Journalism Awards!

These awards are to recognize excellence in scholastic journalism in the Mahoning and Shenango valleys. We hope that high school journalists will join others in the five-county area and submit their best work.

Please read through these rules before submitting your entries.

- All work must be created, written and designed entirely by students.
- Participating schools must be in Mahoning, Trumbull or Columbiana County in Ohio, or Lawrence or Mercer County in Pennsylvania.
- Each school may submit up to three entries in a category, but there is a limit of one entry per category for individual students, except in the design/layout category; Students may be entered in the design/layout category multiple times. Each entry submitted must be by a different writer, photographer or artist.
- Most entries can be entered by using the Individual Award Entry Form. There are separate forms for Best News Publication or Website, Scholastic Journalist of the Year Award and Adviser of the Year Award.
- Entries can be published either in print or online. Clip and paste your entry on an 8 1/2" by 11" sheet of paper, fill out a copy of this form, and attach it to the entry. Pieces published online can be printed on an 8 1/2" by 11" sheet of paper. Include the original glossy photos or high-quality reproductions with photography entries.
- Digital entries that cannot be printed and mailed (for instance, broadcast entry clips) may be sent via email to [youngstownpressclub@gmail.com](mailto:youngstownpressclub@gmail.com).
- Judging will be based on divisions that are determined by a number of factors (i.e., curricular, extracurricular, staffing, etc.). Please be sure to include this information on your registration form.
- There is a \$5 fee for each entry or a \$30 flat-fee for unlimited entries in all categories. Payment may be made by check, payable to "Youngstown Press Club." Checks must accompany the submission of entries. Payment may also be paid by credit card via Square at <https://square.link/u/ljo3qyRA>.
- Entries for the 2024-2025 competition must be postmarked by

**Friday, March 21, 2025.**

Entries are to be mailed to:  
The Youngstown Press Club  
P.O. Box 2531  
Youngstown, OH 44507

- Questions or more information needed? Contact:  
Mark Sweetwood  
YPC Scholastic Journalism Awards Contest Director  
[markmsweetwood@gmail.com](mailto:markmsweetwood@gmail.com)  
330-301-3019  
or  
Diane Laney Fitzpatrick  
YPC Executive Director  
[youngstownpressclub@gmail.com](mailto:youngstownpressclub@gmail.com)  
561-281-3145

Dear Colleague:

Below is a checklist for those entering the 2024-2025 Youngstown Press Club Scholastic Journalism Awards competition.

Have you:

- Printed out and carefully read all of the contest guidelines and entry forms?
- Completed the appropriate entry form for each of your submissions, making sure that all the information requested is provided?
- Attached a completed entry form to each submission?
- Paid for entry fees? Fees are \$5 per entry or a \$30 flat-fee for unlimited entries in all categories.

Please make checks payable to “Youngstown Press Club.” If you are paying fees online at <https://square.link/u/ljo3qyRA>, please attach a note to your contest submissions letting us know you paid online.

Mail your contest entries to:

Youngstown Press Club  
P.O. Box 2531  
Youngstown, OH 44507

Send digital file contest entries to:

[youngstownpressclub@gmail.com](mailto:youngstownpressclub@gmail.com)

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## 2024-2025 Youngstown Press Club Scholastic Awards Categories

- **News article - broadcast, print or website story.** Must be factual (no editorializing), accurate, well-organized and clearly written, with appropriate attribution.
- **Feature article - broadcast, print or website story.** Must be engaging and clearly written, capturing the essence of the topic or person with intriguing details and colorful questions.
- **Sports news article - broadcast, print or website story.** Must follow general criteria for news articles; must go beyond game summary, follow standards for sports writing and avoid overuse of sports jargon.
- **Sports feature article - broadcast, print or website story.** Must follow general criteria for feature articles with focus on an athlete, team or sports-related subject.
- **News Publication, Broadcast Production or Website.** Must be engaging and adhere to highest journalism standards to inform its audience. Will accept metrics like publication circulation and web traffic.
- **Editorial cartoon/News graphic.** Must either help to articulate a complex story or display a clear message regarding a social topic or event and be well-designed.
- **Editorial/Column/Opinion.** Thought-provoking writing that reflects the author's — or the publication's — thoughtful analysis and reflection on a topic. Work should also provide fair analysis with emphasis on good research and constructive criticism or advocacy.
- **Best Use of Social Media.** Must display proficiency in using social media platforms to break news or promote traffic to an online site, broadcast or print news publication.
- **Photography or video package.** A published, non-sports photo with appropriate contrast, balance, framing and composition; or video package. Must capture the essence of an event or subject.
- **Layout/Design.** Must display exceptional and creative layout; judged on strength of visual impact (placement of articles, photos and illustrations). Will accept printed and website designs.

- **Advertisement.** Must attract an audience to the service or product with outstanding writing and visual design.
- **Scholastic Journalist of the Year.** Students working for any high school publication or broadcast production, published either online or in print, are eligible.
- **Adviser of the Year.** Any member of a school community may nominate an adviser for this award, meant to recognize the work of advisers. Typically, it is expected that students who work with the adviser will make a nomination. However, other members of the school community may wish to take part in the nominations.

**2024-2025 Youngstown Press Club  
Scholastic Journalism Awards**

**Individual Award Entry Form**

Fee: \$5 per entry or \$30 flat-fee for unlimited entries in all categories

Individual Awards are open to pieces published in high school newspapers and news websites, either in print or online. Advisers: Photocopy this sheet and attach one completed form per entry. Be sure to provide all information requested below. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY

Contest name: \_\_\_\_\_

School name: \_\_\_\_\_

School's total enrollment: \_\_\_\_\_

Publication or Website name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student 1 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Student 2 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Student 3 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Student 4 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date of publication: \_\_\_\_\_

Adviser: \_\_\_\_\_

Adviser's email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Is the media organization (Choose 1): Curricular? Extracurricular? Other?

Number of student staff: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of professional staff/advisers: \_\_\_\_\_

It is possible for no winners to be chosen in a category. In addition, the Youngstown Press Club requests a narrative outlining any unique problems faced in the publication of the piece, including time and staffing constraints, and prior review.

Entries for the 2024-2025 competition must be postmarked by **Friday, March 21, 2025.**

**2024-2025 Youngstown Press Club  
Scholastic Journalism Awards**

**Best News Publication, Broadcast Production or Website**

FEE: \$5 per entry or \$30 flat-fee for unlimited entries in all categories

Submit three separate issues of your newspaper, broadcast show or web publication published after August 2024. If your school has fewer than three issues available by March 21, 2025, send what you have, being sure to note this in the form below.

This sheet goes directly to the judges and will give them a complete picture of your publication.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY

School name: \_\_\_\_\_

School's total enrollment: \_\_\_\_\_

Newspaper, Production or Website name: \_\_\_\_\_

Adviser: \_\_\_\_\_

Adviser's email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Is the paper or production (Choose 1): Curricular? Extracurricular? Other?

Number of news student staff: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of professional staff/advisers: \_\_\_\_\_

Final editorial decisions are made by (Choose 1): Students? Adviser?

Circulation (Number of newspapers printed or website traffic): \_\_\_\_\_

Annual operating budget \_\_\_\_\_

How is your publication or production funded? \_\_\_\_\_

How often is your newspaper or show published/produced? \_\_\_\_\_

List professional journalism-related credentials of adviser(s): \_\_\_\_\_



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If you have any special production issues, please list them here: \_\_\_\_\_

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Other comments for consideration (printing facilities, darkroom facilities, etc.):

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It is possible for no winners to be chosen in a category. In addition, the Youngstown Press Club requests a narrative outlining any unique problems faced in the production of the newspaper or product, including prior review.

Entries for the 2024-2025 competition must be postmarked by **Friday, March 21, 2025.**

**2024-2025 Youngstown Press Club  
Scholastic Journalism Awards**

**Scholastic Journalist of the Year Award**

**NO ENTRY FEE REQUIRED**

Students working for any high school publication, published either online or in print, are eligible.

Please use the checklist below to make sure you have submitted all materials necessary to compete for the High School Journalist of the Year Award.

- You must be a senior graduating in Spring 2025.
- You must submit three original, published pieces; please print and attach online pieces.
- You must write a 500-word essay explaining why you should be selected for this award.
- You must complete this student application form.
- You must turn in all of your materials to your adviser.
- Your adviser must sign this form and submit all materials by the stated deadline.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY

Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Intended college: \_\_\_\_\_

Intended major: \_\_\_\_\_

High school: \_\_\_\_\_

School's total enrollment: \_\_\_\_\_

High school phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Media adviser's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your media adviser **MUST** sign this form below, certifying that all of the information provided is complete and accurate, and that you qualify for the Scholastic Journalist of the Year Award based on the criteria listed above.

Adviser's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Entries for the 2024-2055 competition must be postmarked by **Friday, March 21, 2025.**

**2024-2025 Youngstown Press Club  
Scholastic Journalism Awards**

**Adviser of the Year Award**

NO ENTRY FEE REQUIRED

Any member of a school community may nominate an adviser for this special award. Typically, it is expected that students who work with the adviser will make a nomination. However, other members of the school community may wish to take part in the nominations. More than one adviser may be recognized. Please complete a separate form for each person nominated. This contest is open to advisers of all high-school media. Up to three letters supporting the adviser's nomination may be submitted; please attach them to this form. Don't forget the 500-word essay (see below).

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY

Adviser's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Adviser's email address: \_\_\_\_\_

School name: \_\_\_\_\_

School's total enrollment: \_\_\_\_\_

Media organization name: \_\_\_\_\_

Is the media organization (Choose 1): Curricular? Extracurricular? Other?

Number of student staff: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of professional staff/advisers: \_\_\_\_\_

List professional journalism-related credentials of adviser: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Provide three reasons why this person deserves the Adviser of the Year Award.

Reason 1: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Reason 2: \_\_\_\_\_

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Reason 3: \_\_\_\_\_

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Attach a 500-word, typed essay to the form explaining why you feel this adviser deserves the Adviser of the Year Award. You may use the above reasons as your main points, adding any other information that you feel is relevant and should be considered by the judges.

Entries for the 2024-2055 competition must be postmarked by **Friday, March 21, 2025.**