



STUDENTS

BEST OF THE BEST IN INDIANA JOURNALISM

Recognizing the most outstanding work of the year in Indiana print, broadcast and online journalism.

HOW TO ENTER

The Best in Indiana Journalism awards, sponsored by the Indiana Professional chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, considers all journalistic work printed, broadcast or published online in Indiana.

This year, entries can be submitted online at spjcontest.com in some categories of the Best in Indiana Journalism contest. In both the Professional and Student divisions, entries are accepted at spjcontest.com in the print, photo, online and radio categories. Submissions are not accepted online in the television, design and books categories.

- Nominations are accepted from news organizations or individuals.
- Nominees need not be members of the Society of Professional Journalists.
- All entries must have been published or broadcast during calendar year 2009. A series of stories must have started publication or broadcast in 2009.
- An individual or organization may enter as many stories as desired, including multiple entries for one category. Exceptions: In the Personal Column category, three columns comprise one entry, and only one entry per person is allowed. In the Television Newscast category, each station is allowed only one entry.
- In most categories, the award recognizes a single piece of work, such as a single story, photo or design. The category descriptions note cases in which multiple pieces of work are required or allowed.
- Stories may be entered in only one category, and work submitted in the Student Division may not be submitted in the Professional Division. Exceptions: Work submitted in the Special Honors Division may be entered in the Professional or Student divisions. Work submitted for a design award may also be entered for a print award. Work submitted for a videography award may also be submitted for a television award.
- No first-place winner will be awarded when judges consider none of the work submitted to be worthy of the award. The Special Honors Division is particularly selective, and those awards will be presented only to exceptional nominees.
- Each entry must be accompanied by two copies of the Best in Indiana Journalism nomination form. For each entry, follow the specifications noted in the Submission Guidelines.
- Entries in the Professional Division cost \$20 per entry. Entries in the Student Division cost \$15 per entry. Special Honors Division entry fees vary depending on the category. Checks should be made payable to: Indiana Society of Professional Journalists. One check for several entries is acceptable. Credit card payment is available at spjcontest.com only for entries that are submitted online. A \$2.00 service charge per entry will be added to cover the cost of credit card processing.
- For questions, contact contest coordinator Rob Higley at (317) 578-1440 or rhigley@revealconsulting.com.
- Award submissions must be received by 5 p.m. Monday, February 1, 2010. They should be dropped off (during normal business hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday) or mailed to:

Reveal Consulting
Attention: Rob Higley
11057 Allisonville Road
Suite #444
Fishers, IN 46038

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

SPECIAL HONORS DIVISION

Special Honors Division entries are not accepted online. Entry fees vary depending on the award (see category descriptions). One Special Honors entry consists of:

- Two copies of a completed Best in Indiana Journalism nomination form.
- A written summary (no more than 500 words) describing why the nominee is worthy of this award.
- Any documentation that supports the nomination (Optional). This might include letters of nomination, most notably from the nominee's supervisor.
- Additionally, work samples are required for some awards in the Special Honors division. See category descriptions for more details. For work samples, print journalists should submit photocopies of their work; television journalists should submit work on a videocassette or DVD; radio journalists should submit their work on a CD containing MP3s; photojournalists should submit their work on a CD in JPEG, GIF or PNG formats; and Web journalists should submit their work on a CD containing digital files.

Place one entry form, summary and, if applicable, work samples and backup documentation inside a 9 x 12 envelope. Label the envelope with the nominee's name and the category name and number. Attach the second copy of the entry form to the outside of the envelope with a paper clip.

STUDENT DIVISION

PRINT

- Print submissions are accepted online at spjcontest.com, where you can fill out nomination information and submit entries as PDFs. Or, one print entry in a traditional format consists of:
 - Photocopy of the story or stories. The name of the story and date of publication must appear on the copy.
 - Two copies of a completed Best in Indiana Journalism nomination form.
- Staple one copy of the form to the photocopied entry and place the entry inside a 9 x 12 envelope. Label the envelope with the category name and number. Attach the second copy of the entry form to the outside of the envelope with a paper clip.

RADIO

- Radio submissions are accepted online at spjcontest.com, where you can fill out nomination information and submit entries as MP3s. Or, one radio entry in a traditional format consists of:
 - An audiocassette or CD edited to include only entry story or stories.
 - Two copies of a completed Best in Indiana Journalism nomination form.
- Place one copy of the form and the cassette or CD inside a 9 x 12 envelope. Label the envelope with the category name and number. Attach the second copy of the entry form to the outside of the envelope with a paper clip.

TELEVISION/VIDEOGRAPHY

- Television/videography submissions are not accepted online. One television/videography entry consists of:
 - A videocassette or DVD edited to include only entry story or stories. Delete commercial breaks and include two seconds of black between segments.
 - Two copies of a completed Best in Indiana Journalism nomination form.
- Place one copy of the form and the video cassette or DVD inside a 9 x 12 envelope. Label the envelope with the category name and number. Attach the second copy of the entry form to the outside of the envelope with a paper clip.

■ DESIGN

Design submissions are not accepted online. One design entry consists of:

- *Tearsheets or a photocopy of the layout. The publication date and name of the publication must appear on the submission.*
- *Two copies of a completed Best in Indiana Journalism nomination form.*

Place one copy of the form and one entry inside a 9 x 12 envelope. Label the envelope with the category name and number. Attach the second copy of the entry form to the outside of the envelope with a paper clip.

■ PHOTO

Photo submissions are accepted only online at spjcontest.com, where you can fill out nomination information and submit entries in a digital format (JPEG, GIF or PNG).

■ ONLINE

Online submissions are accepted only online at spjcontest.com, where you can fill out nomination information and submit the name of the URL. Any URL that is not operational at time of judging can be disqualified.

■ BOOKS

Book entries are not accepted online. One book entry consists of:

- *One copy of the book.*
- *Two copies of a completed Best in Indiana Journalism nomination form.*

Place the book and one copy of the form inside a 9 x 12 envelope. Label the envelope with the category name and number. Attach the second copy of the entry form to the outside of the envelope with a paper clip.

SPECIAL HONORS DIVISION CATEGORIES

3. INDIANA STUDENT JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

Honors an Indiana student journalist or team with the most outstanding body of work during the contest period. Nominations can include up to eight work samples. Entry fee: \$35.

4. INDIANA SERVICE TO JOURNALISM AWARD

Honors a person or organization for advancing the practice of quality journalism in the state. Presented in honor of Gene and Julie Slaymaker, longtime members of the Indiana Professional chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists and administrators of the Best in Indiana Journalism contest. No entry fee required.

5. FIRST AMENDMENT AWARD

Honors a journalist or news organization for outstanding use of public records in reporting or advocacy of rights such as press freedom and public access. Nominations can include up to eight work samples. Entry fee: \$20.

STUDENT DIVISION CATEGORIES

■ PRINT

66. SPOT NEWS

67. NON-DEADLINE NEWS

68. FEATURE

69. SERIES (Entry may include up to five installments of a project designated as a series upon publication. Sidebar material may be included. A letter describing the origin and impact of the project may also be included.)

70. LIFESTYLE FEATURE (A single article or package focusing on a lifestyle topic such as fitness, food, travel, family life or other lifestyle matters.)

71. ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT FEATURE (Single story or package focusing on art, movies or theater.)

72. COVERAGE OF GOVERNMENT OR POLITICS

(Entry may include up to five pieces of work.)

- A. Indianapolis market only
- B. Outside Indianapolis market

73. SPORTS REPORTING

74. EDITORIAL WRITING (Single editorial. Faculty adviser must certify authorship.)

75. EDITORIAL CARTOON

76. NEWS PHOTOGRAPH

77. SPORTS PHOTOGRAPH

78. IN-DEPTH REPORTING

79. PAGE ONE/COVER DESIGN

Submit no more than three spreads illustrating general design excellence; elements judged include composition, headline writing, editing, and graphics used.

80. DESIGN OTHER THAN PAGE ONE/COVER

Submit no more than three spreads illustrating general design excellence; elements judged include composition, headline writing, editing and graphics used.

81. INFORMATIONAL GRAPHIC

■ RADIO/TELEVISION

Work appearing on a campus television station that is prepared or presented by a professional staff member should be submitted in regular professional television competition. In instances in which a student's work has been presented on a program normally produced by professionals, the entry may be submitted in student categories.

82. NEWSCAST

A complete, regularly scheduled news program of up to 60 minutes in length.

- A. Any Indiana college radio station.
- B. Any Indiana college television station.

83. NEWS REPORTING

 (Not including spot news, investigative or feature stories.)

Entry must demonstrate excellence in writing, production and delivery of a story or event of significant interest to the target audience.

- A. Any Indiana college radio station.
- B. Any Indiana college television station.

84. FEATURE

An in-depth report not considered hard or breaking news, including human interest, health, education, science or environmental themes. It can be creative coverage of a planned or unplanned event.

- A. Any Indiana college radio station.
- B. Any Indiana college television station.

85. SPORTS REPORTING

Coverage of a sports event or theme, excluding play-by-play. Entry may be a Sports Special with more than one reporter's work product. Judges may single out individual stories or recognize team efforts.

86. PUBLIC AFFAIRS, DOCUMENTARY OR SERIES PROGRAMMING

A news program outside of regular newscasts, prompted by breaking news or an issue of community concern, either live or taped. Entry should include a covering statement that defines the need for the reporting effort and cites any results achieved or public response obtained.

- A. Any Indiana college radio station.
- B. Any Indiana college television station.

87. COVERAGE OF GOVERNMENT OR POLITICS

(Entry may include up to five pieces of work.)

88. RADIO USE OF SOUND

Submit three examples.

89. RADIO WRITING

90. RADIO COVERAGE OF GOVERNMENT OR POLITICS

(Entry may include up to five pieces of work.)

91. VIDEOGRAPHY

Photo coverage showing excellent photography, editing and production values.

■ ONLINE

92. COLLEGE JOURNALISM WEB SITE

Entries will be judged on original journalistic content, design, creative use of technology and ease of navigation. Site design should be original, not a template provided by another organization.