

# SIPA's Best Writing Contest

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Read instructions carefully. Entries not adhering to guidelines will not be considered. Send submissions to [hsjourno@gmail.com](mailto:hsjourno@gmail.com) no later than Dec. 15.

## The basics

**Cost:** \$5 per entry or 11 entries for \$50

**How:** All entries must be **submitted digitally** to [hsjourno@gmail.com](mailto:hsjourno@gmail.com).

Entries must be **published between Dec. 1, 2021 and Nov. 30, 2022.**

**Each individual staff** that enters the contest **must be a SIPA member.**

So if the school newspaper is a SIPA member and that same school's yearbook wants to enter in the writing contest, the yearbook must join SIPA as well.

**Memberships are by publications not by school or adviser.**

**Entries are limited to one student per category, but unlimited per staff and publication.**

So Jane Doe from the Columbia HS newspaper can only enter the Sports Story category once, but other Columbia HS newspaper staff members can enter the Sports Story category as well. Jane Doe can also enter other categories. Jane just can't submit two stories in one category.

**Winners:** Awards will be presented during the closing ceremony Sunday morning at the SIPA convention, and winners will be posted online after the convention.

Email Leslie Dennis at [dennislc@email.sc.edu](mailto:dennislc@email.sc.edu) with any questions.

# Entry Instructions

Read instructions carefully and make sure to submit stories properly. Entries not adhering to guidelines will not be considered. Send submissions to [hsjourno@gmail.com](mailto:hsjourno@gmail.com) no later than Dec. 15.

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## How to save

**Submissions must be saved as PDFs** in order to verify publication. Broadcast scripts should have links included to the corresponding video and online entries should have links to published article.

**Save submissions as category name\_student name\_adviser's initials.** Ex: A feature story written by Jane Doe (Karen Flowers as adviser) would be saved as **FeatureStory\_JDoe\_KF.PDF**.

Include a **composite list of entries**, which has your **school name, publication name and entry information (category, student name)**. This list should be in order by category. If you have multiple entries in one category, list all entries beneath the category subhead.

## How to submit

**OPTION ONE – upload in Google Drive:** [HSJOURNO@GMAIL.COM](mailto:HSJOURNO@GMAIL.COM)

- Create a folder labeled SIPA Writing Contest
- Put all entries in the folder. Make sure you save all submissions with proper file names.
- Upload folder on Google Drive and share with [HSjourno@gmail.com](mailto:HSjourno@gmail.com).

**OPTION TWO – Dropbox:**

- Create a Dropbox account, if you do not already have one, on [dropbox.com](https://dropbox.com)
- In Dropbox, upload a folder labeled SIPA Writing Contest that has all your entries in it.
- Then click share a folder and select which folder to share.
- Share it with [HSjourno@gmail.com](mailto:HSjourno@gmail.com)

**Once you have shared your submissions, you may not make any edits or changes to the files/entries.** The office will download the files as soon as they are uploaded.

## How you know it's been received

Advisers will receive an email when the submissions have been received. If you do not receive an email notification within 24 hours of submission, please email Leslie at [dennislc@email.sc.edu](mailto:dennislc@email.sc.edu).

If you have any questions about the submission process, email Leslie at [dennislc@email.sc.edu](mailto:dennislc@email.sc.edu) for clarification.

# Category descriptions

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## Audio/video

Video scripts should have complete directions for audio and timing.

- Academic
- Commentary
- Feature
- Human interest
- News
- Podcast (transcript & link)
- Public Service Announcement
- Short film
- Sports
- Portfolio – four examples

## Literary magazine

**Drama** – (include staging directions) dialogue along with other narrative devices

**Essay non-fiction** – could include articles or persuasive essays and should include engaging detail and logical organization

**Flash fiction** – original piece of fiction 150 words or fewer

**Interview/spotlight** – non-fiction Q&A on any issue or person relevant to the school, publication or student body

**Personal essay** – autobiographical piece that holds universal truths

**Poetry** – has rhythm in lines and form and explore different literary devices

**Prose fiction** – be original and thought-provoking like many fiction works

**Review** – pieces should effectively detail pros and cons of something in pop culture (book, movie, show, restaurant, etc.)

**Satire** – uses humor and/or irony to expose and ridicule

**Song lyrics/music composition** – original, creative musical piece. Can include a link to performed piece.

**Portfolio** – four examples from any of the categories within lit mag by a single student

## Newsprint

**Editorial column** – bylined, opinionated piece with a distinct voice

**Feature** – focuses on human interest topics

**Entertainment/feature column** – appeals to reader emotion through sharing an autobiographical moment or insight of human conditions

**Headline** – three examples of writing by a single student

**Investigative story** – delves into a certain topic with thorough reporting and well-researched sources/facts

**News feature** – has a news component but delves into human interest topics as well

**News** – covers a timely topic with sources and pertinent information

**Personality feature** – focuses on a person and what makes them special

**Review** – positive and negative traits of a piece of media

**Sports** – covers sports news: game advances, game coverage, etc.

**Sports column** – a writer's opinion about a sports topic

**Sports feature** – focuses the behind-the-scenes of sports and conveys the mood of the team

**Staff editorial** – unbylined story that reflects the view of the staff about a specific issue

**Portfolio** – four examples from any of the categories within newsprint by a single student

## Online storytelling

Entries should include multimedia elements and be published to the web only (not in print).

**Alternative storytelling** – nontraditional written element such as lists, notebook style writing and rankings that includes a substantial, unique narrative

**Blog** – a series that displays a strong voice, entertains and informs

**Column** – appeals to reader emotion through sharing a significant autobiographical moment or insight of human conditions

**Features** – focuses on human interest topics; can include various online aspects including a photo gallery, sidebar, video, etc.

**Investigative story** – delves into a certain topic with thorough reporting and well-researched sources/facts

**News** – covers timely topics and can include other online aspects like photo galleries or video

**Personality feature** – focuses on a person and what makes he/she special

**Review** – positive and negative traits about a piece of media

**Sports column** – focuses on the writer's opinion about a sports topic

**Sports feature** – focuses on the behind-the-scenes of sports and conveys the mood of the team

**Sports News** – focuses on sports news: game advances, game coverage, etc.

**Portfolio** – four examples from any of the categories within online by a single student

## Photo cutlines

Students submit a SINGLE original photograph with a cutline at least two sentences long in three categories – except for portfolio category.

- Feature
- News
- Sports

Portfolio - four examples from any of the categories within cutlines by a single student

## Yearbook

**Academics** – reflects the academics and daily life of your school

**Advertising/Community** – shows relationship between community and student programs

**Alternative storytelling** – presented in a format other than traditional, narrative text IN PLACE OF the dominant story on the spread.

**Groups** – focuses on groups at your school giving back to the school

**Headline** – three examples of writing by a single student

**People** – captures experiences, contributions and goals of students

**Sports** – highlights contributions of players, coaches and fans at school

**Student life** – concentrates on students and what they do after the school day ends

**Theme** – incorporates the theme with specific details from the year

**Portfolio** – four examples from any of the categories within yearbook by a single student