2020 NISPA Web Contest Rules

Please read the enclosed materials and information carefully. Specific instructions regarding deadlines, categories, and entries are given. These guidelines **MUST** be followed if the evaluation system is to be successful.

I. OVERALL CATEGORY: Each website that is a paid member of NISPA will be judged between and around the dates of February 14 and March 25. Submit a website contest entry form for your site with your materials.

II. INDIVIDUAL CATEGORIES: Each online staff may also submit one individual entry per school in each of the following categories: BREAKING NEWS, MULTIMEDIA PACKAGE, VIDEO, BLOG, and PHOTO GALLERY/SLIDESHOW GALLERY.

   A. BREAKING NEWS: (one individual story) Topic is timely; updates are made as new information comes in; information is accurate; fair play is given to topic; copy is objective and written in third person; writing style is consistent; paragraphs and sentences are short, but not choppy; correct punctuation and spelling are used; inverted pyramid style of writing is used; lead is strong; headline is strong; follows professional press rules; attribution and quotes are plentiful and used well.

   B. MULTIMEDIA PACKAGE: (one individual package that uses two or more types of media- such as text/video; text/podcast; text/photo gallery) Topic has a well-developed narrative structure; topic is of high interest to a student audience; supplemental content adds richness to the topic; multimedia element is of overall exceptional quality, meeting professional standards applicable to the form.

   C. VIDEO (one news, feature, or sports video): audio is clear; use of B-roll/voiceover/natural sound considered; video matches audio; editing is free of glitches; time limit is met (under 3 minutes).

   D. BLOG: Covers events/topics of high interest to teens; blog is updated consistently with fresh and insightful information; blogger has clear, engaging voice; posts are creative and engaging so as to stimulate dialogue and commentary; posts reflect the blogger's unique personality; posts have an 'insider appeal,' going beyond the obvious and trite; posts link to relevant and up-to-date websites to enhance content

   E. PHOTO GALLERY/SLIDESHOW: (Submit six-12 photos by one photographer from one event.) Photos are newsworthy; slideshow transitions smoothly; a variety of shots are used; photos are action-oriented; photos tell a story; photos are taken from strong angles, are cropped well, and are technically sound.

REMEMBER: For each INDIVIDUAL CATEGORY ENTRY, submit all information on the Google form that was sent out, including a working URL. All entries must be original student work. Plagiarism will result in immediate disqualification. The decision of the judges is final. ENTRIES WILL BE DISQUALIFIED IF THESE RULES ARE NOT FOLLOWED.

Your staff will receive the judge's written evaluation along with each entry. Judging will be done by experts in scholastic journalism. They will choose the top entries in each category.

All entries must be submitted using the online form by Jan. 31, 2020.