



# Best of Mississippi

## Scholastic Journalism Awards

**Winners will be announced at the MSPA statewide high school journalism convention at Ole Miss on Friday, March 31, 2017.  
Publications must be MSPA members to win. Contact MSPA director R.J. Morgan for more information.**

Mississippi Scholastic Press Association  
102 Farley Hall, University of Mississippi  
University, MS 38677



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# Best of Mississippi

## Rules and Regulations

**DUE  
FEB.  
15**

### ELIGIBILITY AND COST

The only requirement for eligibility in any of our contests is that your publication be a member of MSPA. All contests are free to enter.

### TYPES OF AWARDS

We offer awards for all different publication types. These typically break down into four areas:

1. News Paper/Mag/Site
2. Yearbook
3. Broadcast
4. Literary Magazine

*\* There are four awards that don't fall into one of those divisions and are open to any student or publication (details on the next page).*

Within each of the above areas, our contests break out into Publication (PUB) and Individual (IND) categories.

For Publication Categories, schools submit examples of the staff's abilities in a given area, and awards are issued in the name of the publication. For Individual Categories, schools submit strong individual works for recognition, and awards are issued in the name of the student.

### WINNERS

In most PUB and IND categories, judges will select up to five finalists and one winner.

### SUBMISSION

Different publications are submitted different ways. We've tried to make this as uniform as possible. Only pieces submitted properly (and on time) will be considered in each category. Once you have shared your submissions, you may not make any edits or changes to the files/entries.

### MAIL SUBMISSION – Literary Magazines & Yearbooks (PUB)

For these whole-book categories, please send the entire print publication for judging. Our mailing address:

Mississippi Scholastic Press Association  
102 Farley Hall  
PO BOX 1848  
University, MS 38677

These are the only items that should be mailed. Everything else should be submitted digitally.

### DIGITAL SUBMISSION – Everything else.

1. To submit digitally, you will need to begin by creating a Dropbox or Google Drive account. Both of these are free and user-friendly.
2. Once you've created an account, create an MSPA Submissions folder in your account. This is where all your digital files will go. DO NOT use subfolders. Your files will automatically sort by the category codes in the file name.
3. Now you're ready to stock your Submissions folder with all the files you plan to enter.

**FILE NAMES** – All file names should follow this format: CategoryCode\_School\_StudentName (if applicable). When submitting multiple entries from the same student in the same category, tack a 1, 2 or 3 on the end of the filename. Same for submitting multiple issues of a newspaper as a single entry; tack a 1, 2 or 3 on the end of the filename.

**FILE TYPES** – Photos should be submitted as JPEGs. Everything else should be PDFs. For broadcasts and online content, provide links. Do not send whole videos.

4. Include one PDF with a numbered composite list of entries. This list should help us ensure that all submissions were received. The list should be in order by category.
5. Once all files and your composite list are in your Submissions folder, simply share that folder with mississippischolasticpress@gmail.com. The office will download the files as soon as they are uploaded. 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 MSPA director R.J. Morgan at morgan@go.olemiss.edu.

**If you have any questions about the submission process, call or email for clarification.**

*\*\* All entries become the property of the Mississippi Scholastic Press Association and may be displayed in a collection of winning entries. Because of time and financial constraints, printed entries cannot be returned. \*\**

# OPEN TO ALL PUBLICATION TYPES

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## Best of Mississippi

### High School Journalist of the Year

**DUE**  
**FEB. 15**

Are you the best high school journalist in Mississippi? Prove it by applying for this highest honor. This award is sponsored by the Journalism Education Association and the Mississippi Press Association. Candidates for this honor must develop a comprehensive online portfolio detailing their success as a high school journalist (full requirements available at JEA.org). A cash prize of \$250 is awarded to the winner. Open to journalists of all publication types. Category Code: JOY

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## Best of Mississippi

### Scholastic Press Ally Award

**DUE**  
**FEB. 15**

Building a publication that gives students the power and responsibility to report events of student interest accurately and fairly usually takes support outside the classroom. Whether that support comes from an administrator, a parent, a diligent IT worker, a community member, a local business or any number of others, MSPA wishes to honor these scholastic press allies with statewide recognition. To enter your greatest ally, submit a PDF with up to three letters of nomination. Category Code: SPA

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## Best of Mississippi

### Orley Hood Award for Excellence in Sports Journalism

**DUE**  
**FEB. 15**

This award is presented in partnership with the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame. Students should submit a brief resume along with any three sports-related work samples. These may include columns, features, game stories, breaking news or in-depth enterprise pieces. The winning student will be announced at the MSPA convention in Oxford and recognized at the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame's "Pop Stars" awards banquet in Jackson later this spring. Any student on staff at an MSPA-member school is eligible, regardless of size. Judging will be all-inclusive. Category Code: OHA

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## Best of Mississippi

### Best Social Media Presence

**DUE**  
**FEB. 15**

Modern journalists are increasingly using social media to connect with their audience and report on events in real time. Sites like Twitter, Facebook and Instagram are the most popular, but not the only ones. To enter this category, list all social media accounts on one PDF. Judging will be based on their combined effectiveness at informing your audience. Category Code: PSM



# Best of Mississippi

## News Paper/Mag/Site Division

**DUE  
FEB.  
15**

This is MSPA's largest division of competition. Newspapers and news magazines have long been the foundation of American journalism. In recent decades, these institutions have adapted to modernity and added news websites and social media accounts to the arsenal of tools they use to deliver information to their audiences. MSPA encourages scholastic journalism programs to do the same. Below is a comprehensive list of categories honored.

### HIGHEST HONOR AWARDS

(File Name Example: ENY\_Brownsville\_AbigaleBagwell)

#### 1. JoAnne Sellers Newspaper Adviser of the Year (ANY)

Advisers should be able to demonstrate their excellence in program management, financial stewardship, student development and journalistic integrity. Submit a brief resume detailing yourself, your program and any relevant accomplishments, along with up to three letters of recommendation. Any adviser at an MSPA-member school is eligible, regardless of size. Judging will be all-inclusive.

#### 2. Newspaper Editor of the Year (ENY)

Student editors should exhibit journalistic talent, but more importantly, leadership. Pushing others to achieve their best and managing the success of the publication as a whole are the marks of a truly great editor. Editors should be knowledgeable and articulate about their publication and its goals, as well as the school and community. Submit a brief resume detailing yourself, your program and any relevant accomplishments, along with up to three letters of recommendation. All editors of MSPA-member schools are eligible, regardless of size. Judging will be all-inclusive.

### PUBLICATION AWARDS

These are awarded in the name of the publication. Submit PDFs of your best three issues from the current school year using **category code PNP and your school name** (Ex: PNP\_Brownsville1, PNP\_Brownsville2, PNP\_Brownsville3). Judges will use these three issues to judge categories 1-5. Judging in all categories will be based on the diversity and quality of the stories, and the overall effectiveness of their display.

#### 1. News & Feature Writing

#### 2. Sports Writing

#### 3. Opinion Writing

#### 4. Print Layout and Design

#### 5. Best Newspaper (Highest Honor, all-inclusive)

#### 6. Online Presence (POP)

This is the top award for a high school news site. To enter this category, submit your website's URL in a Word document or PDF with the category code and school in the file name (Ex: POP\_Brownsville). Judging will be based on the overall quality/frequency of content and the appearance of the website.

#### 7. Most Improved News Publication (PMI)

An entry consists of PDFs of the last issue published before Feb. 15 of the previous school year and the last issue published before Feb. 15 of this school year (Ex. PMI\_Brownsville1, PMI\_Brownsville2). Judges will look for significant growth in writing, photography, design, etc.

### INDIVIDUAL AWARDS (LIMIT 3 ENTRIES PER CATEGORY, PER SCHOOL)

(File Name Example: INS\_Brownsville\_AbigaleBagwell)

#### 1. News Story (INS)

Articles entered should report new facts on planned or past actions or developments. Judging will be based on clarity, organization, attention to detail, quotes, attributions and thoroughness.

#### 2. Depth Reporting (IDR)

Special category for entries in which a writer/writers has completed extensive research on a large, complicated topic (think school safety or local economy). Such stories often involve comprehensive surveys and investigations. Judging is based on depth of effort and clarity of presentation.



# Best of Mississippi

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## News Paper/Mag/Site Division

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### 3. Feature Story (IFS)

Features differ from news stories mainly in that features do not necessarily have a time element. They may be about people, events or other topics; they are generally more descriptive than straight news. Judging will be based on clarity, descriptions, attention to detail, quotes, attribution and thoughtfulness.

### 4. Opinion Piece (IOP)

These are opinion articles that lay out a clear stance on a given issue. They may also be columns or commentaries on sports or culture with no specific conclusions drawn or solutions presented. Entries will be judged on clarity, reasoning, organization and thoughtfulness.

### 5. Staff Editorial (IUE)

These are unsigned opinion articles that represent the thoughts of the entire staff. This is the voice of the paper. Entries will be judged on clarity, reasoning, organization and thoughtfulness. Though the article is unsigned, the adviser must designate the name of the actual student writer for recognition.

### 6. Review (IRV)

These are opinion articles that critique a topic (books, movies, music, food, etc.). Judging is based on clarity, reasoning, organization and thoughtfulness.

### 7. Editorial Cartoon (IEC)

Any single cartoon or series, humorous or other, which was student-drawn and printed during the contest period is eligible. Judging will be based on the artist's skill in visually and verbally conveying a message. Editorial cartoons differ from "comics" in that they do present a message.

### 8. Sports Story (ISS)

All copy that reports on athletic contests or issues is eligible for entry. Judging will be based on clarity, organization, attention to detail, quotes, attributions and thoroughness.

### 9. News Photo (INP)

News photos capture actions or reactions to a news event. Any single photo that appeared in a member publication and was taken by a staff member is eligible. Judging is based on composition, focus and contrast - how effectively the photographer conveyed the reason for taking the picture.

### 10. Feature Photo (IFP)

Feature photos are more posed or artistically framed than news photos. Any single photo that appeared in a member publication and was taken by a staff member is eligible. Judging is based on composition, focus and contrast - how effectively the photographer conveyed the reason for taking the picture.

### 11. Sports Photo (ISP)

Sports photos capture actions or reactions involving athletic events or athletes. Any single photo that appeared in a member publication and was taken by a staff member is eligible. Judging is based on composition, focus and contrast - how effectively the photographer conveyed the reason for taking the picture.

### 12. Page Design (IPD)

The entire page or spread must be entered. It does not matter whether the designer wrote any of the stories or took any of the pictures on the page. Judging will be based on the attractiveness and effectiveness of the design, including the clarity and placement of headlines and other elements.



# Best of Mississippi

## Yearbook Division

**DUE  
FEB.  
15**

Yearbooks are one of the most sacred and important institutions entrusted to high school students. They stand as a permanent chronicle of this place in time for both the school and the community. MSPA seeks to honor excellence in these publications, as well as in the students who produce them. Below is a comprehensive list of categories honored. All entries should be published AFTER Feb. 15 of the previous school year.

## HIGHEST HONOR AWARDS

(File Name Example: EYY\_Brownsville\_AbigaleBagwell)

### 1. Caroline Fair Yearbook Adviser of the Year (AYY)

Advisers should be able to demonstrate their excellence in program management, financial stewardship, student development and journalistic integrity. Submit a brief resume detailing yourself, your program and any relevant accomplishments, along with up to three letters of recommendation. Any adviser at an MSPA-member school is eligible, regardless of size. Judging will be all-inclusive.

### 2. Yearbook Editor of the Year (EYY)

Student editors should exhibit journalistic talent, but more importantly, leadership. Pushing others to achieve their best and managing the success of the publication as a whole are the marks of a truly great editor. Editors should be knowledgeable and articulate about their publication and its goals, as well as the school and community. Submit a brief resume detailing yourself, your program and any relevant accomplishments, along with up to three letters of recommendation. All editors of MSPA-member schools are eligible, regardless of size. Judging will be all-inclusive.

## PUBLICATION AWARDS

These are awarded in the name of the publication. **We'll use the entire yearbook to judge the publication awards. Send one book -- no additional submissions necessary.**

### 1. Photography

Overall impact of candid photos of events/people that reflects the culture of the school (i.e. homecoming, pep rallies, parades, cheer sections, etc.) and how it contributes to capturing and documenting the school year. The collection must have strong-storytelling content, effectively cropped for emphasis, technically strong, in focus, proper contrast, and use of the rules of composition.

### 2. Copy

Best overall coverage/reporting of the school year including events, academics, clubs and organizations. It must include meaningful student quotes that enrich the story and reflect effective interviewing by verbally creating a picture of the school year.

### 3. Graphics/Art

Overall use of graphics in the publication will be judged based on how the graphics add to spread content and design. The use of graphics shows evidence of careful planning and clear purpose: to unify, separate, emphasize or direct and not used simply to decorate or fill space.

### 4. Section Dividers

Division spreads are fresh and contemporary, setting them apart from standard design but also similar to each other. Photos, copy, captions, headlines and white space are arranged to introduce readers to contents of the section. Designs carry elements of theme concept while being innovative and adhere to journalistic guidelines.

### 5. Table of Contents

Can be a one-page or two-page spread showing careful planning that introduces the contents of the book in an engaging way while adhering to the design theme elements.

### 6. Colophon

Best visual and verbal documentation detailing the typography, colors, equipment and materials used to complete the publication.

### 7. Senior Advertising Design (student generated)

Judged based on the overall layouts of the spreads and quality of the student-generated design. It must also show elements of the design theme while showing innovative and attractive personal ad designs.

### 8. Cover Design and Endsheets (publisher templates are not eligible)

The cover/endsheet introduces unifying concept visually/verbally with fresh and contemporary design. The cover creates a favorable impression through use of type/color/materials. Must include book name, school name, year and volume number on the spine.



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## Yearbook Division

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### 9. Overall Design

Overall look and attractiveness of the design of the publication based on correct use of journalistic and design guidelines and principles and show evidence of careful planning, consistency and fluidity. Photos, copy, captions, headlines, graphics and whitespace are arranged to guide the reader through the layout.

### 10. Theme

Overall best use of the theme/concept throughout the publication. The theme/concept must be introduced visually and/or verbally on cover and carried through visually/verbally on end sheet, opening, divider and closing showing careful development and a unified presentation. Photos, copy, captions and design relate to the concept creating an overall package to summarize the year.

### 11. Most Improved

To compete in this category, submit a copy of last year's book for comparison purposes.

### 12. Best Yearbook (Highest Honor, All-Inclusive)

The Best Yearbook honors will be given to the publication that best uses all of the mentioned categories in ways that excel and showcase the publication.

## INDIVIDUAL AWARDS (LIMIT 3 ENTRIES PER CATEGORY, PER SCHOOL)

(File Name Example: YFP\_Brownsville\_AbigaleBagwell)

### 1. Feature Photography (YFP)

Photo must reflect either the culture of the school (i.e. homecoming, pep rallies, parades, cheer sections, etc.) or accompany a specific story (stylized, environmental, etc). The photo must have strong-storytelling content, effectively cropped for emphasis, technically strong, in focus, proper contrast and use of the rules of composition.

### 2. Academic Photography (YAP)

A photo showing students involved in academics (classes, projects, or events). The photo must have strong-storytelling content, effectively cropped for emphasis, technically strong, in focus, proper contrast and use of the rules of composition.

### 3. Sports Photography (YSP)

A photo action shot showing a purposeful focus on the play. The photo must have strong-storytelling content, effectively cropped for emphasis, technically strong, in focus, proper contrast and use of the rules of composition.

### 4. Photo Illustration (YPI)

Any photo that has been manipulated digitally to created a new illustration and/or creation. The photo must have strong-storytelling content, effectively cropped for emphasis, technically strong, in focus, proper contrast and use of the rules of composition.

### 5. Feature Reporting (YFR)

Writing should be clear, relevant and have an engaging angle with a solid lead that draws readers into the story. Writing should include meaningful student quotes that enrich the story and reflect effective interviewing.

### 6. Sports Reporting (YSR)

Writing should be clear, relevant and have an engaging angle with a solid lead that draws readers into the story. Writing should include meaningful student quotes that enrich the story and reflect effective interviewing.

### 7. Graphics/Art Package (YGP)

A group of elements within a spread will be judged based on how the graphics add to spread content and design. The use of graphics shows evidence of careful planning and clear purpose: to unify, separate, emphasize or direct and not used simply to decorate or fill space. The graphic element must be submitted as it appears on the spread.

### 8. Double-page Spread (YDS)

The entire spread must be entered. It does not matter whether the designer wrote any of the stories or took any of the pictures on the page. Judging will be based on the attractiveness and effectiveness of the design, including the clarity and placement of headlines and other elements.





# Best of Mississippi

## Broadcast Division

**DUE  
FEB.  
15**

School newscasts are the fastest-growing area of journalism in Mississippi. Each year, more and more schools are giving their students control of the airwaves and allowing them to deliver quality audio and video programs to their student body. Below is a comprehensive list of categories honored.

### HIGHEST HONOR AWARDS

(File Name Example: EBY\_Brownsville\_AbigaleBagwell)

#### 1. Broadcast Adviser of the Year (ABY)

Advisers should be able to demonstrate their excellence in program management, financial stewardship, student development and journalistic integrity. Submit a brief resume detailing yourself, your program and any relevant accomplishments, along with up to three letters of recommendation. Any adviser at an MSPA-member school is eligible, regardless of size. Judging will be all-inclusive.

#### 2. Broadcast Editor of the Year (EBY)

Student editors should exhibit journalistic talent, but more importantly, leadership. Pushing others to achieve their best and managing the success of the publication as a whole are the marks of a truly great editor. Editors should be knowledgeable and articulate about their publication and its goals, as well as the school and community. Submit a brief resume detailing yourself, your program and any relevant accomplishments, along with up to three letters of recommendation. All editors of MSPA-member schools are eligible, regardless of size. Judging will be all-inclusive.

### PUBLICATION AWARDS

These are awarded in the name of the publication. Submit a PDF with links to your best three broadcasts (45-minute max total run time) from the current school year using **category code BCN and your school name** (Ex: BCN\_Brownsville). Judges will use these three shows to judge categories 1-7. Judging in all categories will be based on the diversity and quality of the stories, and the overall effectiveness of their display.

1. **Best Opening Sequence** (1-minute max run time)
2. **Best News Coverage**
3. **Best Feature Coverage**
4. **Best Sports Coverage**
5. **Best Creativity** (PSAs, hype videos, weather reporting, creative contests, etc.)
6. **Best Daily Newscast** (if applicable)
7. **Best Newscast**

8. **Most Improved (BMI)** - For this category, submit a PDF with links to one complete broadcast from before Feb. 15 of the previous school year and one complete broadcast from this school year. Total runtime for both shows should not exceed 30 minutes.

9. **Best Online Streaming Program (BOS)** - For this category, submit a PDF with link to a student-produced broadcast (audio or video) of a sporting event or school program. Judges will look at on-air talent as well as technical execution.

### INDIVIDUAL AWARDS (LIMIT 3 ENTRIES PER CATEGORY, PER SCHOOL)

(File Name Example: BNP\_Brownsville\_AbigaleBagwell)

1. **Best News Story (BNS)** – This category is for your program's best individual student news reports. Any breaking news, events, in-depth pieces, etc. are permissible. Maximum length of 3 minutes per entry, three entries per school.
2. **Best Feature Story (BFS)** – This category is for your program's best individual student feature reports. Good features can be lighthearted, serious, emotional or in-depth. Maximum length of 3 minutes per entry, three entries per school.
3. **Best Sports Story (BSS)** – This category is for your program's best individual student sports reports. Any sports-related previews, recaps, features or exclusives are admissible. Maximum length of 3 minutes per entry, three entries per school.





# Best of Mississippi

**Broadcast Division**

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FEB.  
15**

**4. Best Anchor (BANC)** - Who's the most talented in-studio talent in Mississippi? Submit your highlight reel here to compete. Maximum length of 5 minutes per entry, three entries per school.

**5. Best Weather Reporter (BWET)** - There's a lot that goes into delivering a weather forecast for your student body. Maximum length of 3 minutes per entry, one entry per school.

**6. Best PSA (BPSA)** - This category is for public service announcements and videos that argue for a specific cause or action. Maximum length of 3 minutes per entry, three entries per school.

**7. Best Hype Video (BHYP)** - This category is for videos that excite or engage the student body ahead of a major sporting event or school function. Judging will be based on difficulty and effectiveness. Maximum length of 2 minutes per entry, three entries per school.

**8. Best Podcast (BPOD)** - Does your publication put out a great podcast? Submit your best episode here. Maximum length of 15 minutes per entry, one entry per school.

**9. Best Documentary (BDOC)** - This category is for lengthy in-depth pieces on a singular topic. For example, a 30-minute look at the history of integration in your town/school. Judges will look for innovation, effectiveness and excellence. No maximum length, one entry per school.



# Best of Mississippi

## Literary Magazine Division

**DUE  
FEB.  
15**

Literary Magazines veer from the normal just-the-facts-ma'am method of journalism. They offer students a chance to express their creativity through fiction, poetry and art. MSPA celebrates this freedom of expression by awarding excellence in the categories below. Eligible Literary Magazines **must have been published AFTER Feb. 15 of the previous school year.** If your school publishes more than one issue per year, please include all issues published. Journalism is all about telling the best stories in the most original and effective way. **All categories** will be judged based on originality, professional quality and effectiveness. For literary writing, judges will also consider creativity, attention to detail and thoughtfulness.

## HIGHEST HONOR AWARDS

(File Name Example: EBY\_Brownsville\_AbigaleBagwell)

### 1. Literary Magazine Adviser of the Year (ALMY)

Advisers should be able to demonstrate their excellence in program management, financial stewardship, student development and content integrity. Submit a brief resume detailing yourself, your program and any relevant accomplishments along with up to three letters of recommendation. Any adviser at an MSPA-member school is eligible, regardless of size. Judging will be all-inclusive.

### 2. Literary Magazine Editor of the Year (ELMY)

Student editors should exhibit talent in their content area, but more importantly, leadership. Pushing others to achieve their best and managing the success of the publication as a whole are the marks of a truly great editor. Editors should be knowledgeable and articulate about their publication and its goals, as well as the school and community. Submit a brief resume detailing yourself, your program and any relevant accomplishments, along with up to three letters of recommendation. All editors of MSPA-member schools are eligible, regardless of size. Judging will be all-inclusive.

## PUBLICATION AWARDS

These are awarded in the name of the publication. **We'll use the entire yearbook to judge the publication awards. Send one book -- no additional submissions necessary.**

1. **Design** (attractiveness and readability)
2. **Theme** (Consistent throughout?)
3. **Most Improved** (submit a copy of last year's book for comparison purposes)
4. **Literary Magazine** (Highest Honor, All-Inclusive)

## INDIVIDUAL AWARDS (LIMIT 3 ENTRIES PER CATEGORY, PER SCHOOL)

(File Name Example: LMSF\_Brownsville\_AbigaleBagwell)

1. **Short Fiction (LMSF)**
2. **Poem (LMP)**
3. **Nonfiction (LMNF)**
4. **Hand-drawn Illustration (LMDI)**
5. **Graphic Illustration (LMGI)**
6. **Photo (LMPH)**