

# General Excellence

## Guidelines for newspaper and newsmagazine entries

Newspaper and newsmagazines are judged twice in the General Excellence critique service and competition each year. During the contest, one set of judges evaluates the entire publication, provides comments for the staff and assigns a score. Another set of judges rates portions of the publication such as the front page, editorials or sports, and awards "best of" recognition.

Staffs that follow a newsmagazine format should note that on their entry form. Newsmagazines, as defined by the National Scholastic Press Association, are publications that consistently use cover art devoted to one story and/or a dominant piece of artwork. Newsmagazines also tend to use longer, more feature-style writing. The same criteria is used for judging both newspapers and newsmagazines.

Individual students do not submit their work in the General Excellence category. Instead, they compete in a separate competition (see information on pages 6-9).

### Newspaper General Excellence

Judges for this category review three entire issues of an entered newspaper from the 2007-2008 school year and provide a detailed written critique of the newspaper. Based on the judges evaluation, the newspaper will receive a general excellence rating: merit, achievement, excellent or superior.

Ratings will be announced at the GSPA Awards Ceremony. Categories, based on school size and type of publication, are:

- **Senior High School Printed Newspapers:** Schools are divided based on school size (using the Georgia High School Association classification) and awards will be given within each division.

- **Newsmagazines:** All newsmagazines, regardless of school size, are judged in a separate

category using the same criteria for newspapers.

- **Miniature-sized Papers:** Typically papers using a two or three-column format and duplicated on in-school office equipment are judged in a separate category.

- **Junior High or Middle School Newspapers:** Open to any GSPA member junior high or middle school newspaper, these newspapers are grouped into a separate category.

### Newspaper "Best of" Awards

Judges also award first place prizes in the following special categories as part of General Excellence judging:

- **Best News Writing:** Articles report, but do not interpret, events that have news value and timeliness to the readers.

- **Best Features Writing:** The story or series of stories includes human interest, entertainment or information.

- **Best Editorial Page:** Editorial pages will be judged on reader interest, originality, appropriateness, clarity of purpose and effectiveness. Editorials should represent the opinion of the staff and editors on a timely news matter of concern to the school, community, state, country or world.

- **Best Use of Photographs:** Use of photographs throughout an issue will be evaluated.

- **Best Sports Coverage:** Effective and equal coverage of men's and women's sports as well as freshman, junior varsity and senior varsity sports will be evaluated. In addition, topics will be evaluated for obvious impact on the student audience.

- **Best Use of Advertising:** Creativity, content, design and overall use of space will be evaluated.

- **Best Front Page Layout:** Front pages will be evaluated for content, design, photos, the use of graphic elements and the effective use of space.

### HOW TO SUBMIT AN ENTRY:

*NOTE: GSPA Contests are provided as both a learning tool and a way to recognize the excellent work produced by Georgia students and their advisers throughout the school year. Guidelines are set to ensure efficiency in processing of entries.*

All entry materials must be postmarked by March 7, 2008. No late entries will be accepted.

Staffs competing in this contest must be 2007-2008 members of GSPA. If your staff is not a current member, please submit a membership form (available at [www.gspa.uga.edu](http://www.gspa.uga.edu)) and the late membership fee.

Complete a contest entry form.

Complete a media information form.

Submit the \$35 critique fee.

Send two copies of your best **three** issues printed during the 2007-2008 school year.

There's no need to select entries for the special categories contests, such as "Best Editorial Page." Your paper will be judged automatically in the special categories.

Questions? Contact GSPA at 706-542-5022 or send an e-mail to: [jodennis@uga.edu](mailto:jodennis@uga.edu).

# Official Entry Form

# GSPA General Excellence Contest 2008

Please attach this form to your contest entry materials. Use a copy of this form for each contest you intend to enter. Individual student entries require a separate form. **Type or print neatly.**

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Adviser's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Publication Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

School/Staff Room Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ School/Staff FAX: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Adviser or Staff E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate which contest(s) you are entering:

(NOTE POSTMARK DEADLINES -- NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED!)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper (March 7, 2008)                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Literary Magazine, Round One (March 7, 2008) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsmagazine (March 7, 2008)              | <input type="checkbox"/> Literary Magazine, Round Two (June 30, 2008) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Broadcast TV News Program (March 7, 2008) |   |

Please indicate what materials you are sending with this entry form:

### Contest Entry Materials and Fees:

- Media Information Form
- \$35 Contest Entry Fee

### Materials to be Evaluated:

- Two copies of the three best newspapers or news magazines for the 2007-2008 school year:  
(Please list publication dates.)

\_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_

- Two copies of a published Literary Magazine.
- Two DVD copies of television news program.

**Return this form, along with a media information form and contest materials to:**

**GSPA Contests, Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, 120 Hooper Street, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-3018.**

*GSPA is not responsible for entries lost in the mail.  
Use of a certified mail delivery service is recommended.*

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*For office use only:*

Date rec.	Check#	Total Amt. Paid/Late fee	Processed?	Initials
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# Media Information Form

# GSPA General Excellence Contest 2008

**A separate media information form MUST be attached to each contest entry. Please type or print neatly.**

Name of Publication or Broadcast Program: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

## MEDIA CATEGORY:

Newspaper/News magazine       Broadcast News       Literary Magazine       Yearbook

Frequency of Publication/Program: \_\_\_\_\_ per \_\_\_\_\_ Total Circulation or Audience: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of students on regular staff (not including contributors/freelancers): \_\_\_\_\_

## METHOD OF PRODUCTION FOR PRINT MATERIAL:

Commercial Printer (Printer does all from set type to layout to press run.)

Commercial Printer

In-School Offset Press

In-School Office Duplication Machine

Other (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

## PRODUCTION INFORMATION FOR BROADCAST PROGRAMS:

What is the purpose of this broadcast? \_\_\_\_\_

What format do you use? \_\_\_\_\_ What is the average length of program? \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe your method of production: \_\_\_\_\_

## FINANCING:

Cost per issue/program: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cost per year: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Amount from school/administration: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Amount from sales/subscription: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Amount from advertising per year: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Base ad rate: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per \_\_\_\_\_

Amount from other sources (explain): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## WORK DISTRIBUTION:

Percentage of work done by students: \_\_\_\_\_ Percentage of work done by adviser: \_\_\_\_\_

Percentage of work during class: \_\_\_\_\_ Percentage of work after school hours: \_\_\_\_\_

Percentage of photos taken by students: \_\_\_\_\_ Percentage of photos taken by professionals: \_\_\_\_\_

## PRIMARY SOURCE OF PRODUCTION:

First-year journalism class       Experienced journalism class       Student volunteers/extracurricular

## OTHER CONSIDERATIONS (Example: printer errors, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Return this form with your entry form & materials to: GSPA Contests, Grady College of Journalism & Mass Communication, 120 Hooper Street, The University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-3018