**LSPA NEWSPAPER CONTEST CATEGORIES**

**Be sure to let us know which entries you wish to be considered for which categories below (limit TWO entries per school per category)**

**Writing**

**News Story (advance or coverage):** Articles should report new facts about planned or past actions, events, or developments with accuracy, clarity, and fairness. Pieces should answer the core questions (who, what, when, where, why, and how) while avoiding bias.

**Editorial Writing:** An editorial expresses the publication’s opinion on an issue that matters to its readers. Strong entries present a clear stance, persuasive reasoning, and constructive solutions or calls to action.

**Personal Column:** A column highlights a writer’s informed perspective on a relevant topic for their audience. Strong submissions balance personal voice with credible evidence—using facts, interviews, or observations. Writers may also draw on personal experience or sensory detail to connect with readers.

**Feature Story (excluding sports):** Features go beyond breaking news to tell in-depth, human-centered stories. They may highlight people, events, or issues and often use narrative style, description, and creative structure to engage readers.

**Headline Writing:** Headlines should grab attention while accurately reflecting the story. They should be concise, engaging, and informative, helping readers quickly understand why the story matters.

**Sports Game or Tournament Coverage:** Coverage of a single game, match, meet, or tournament. Strong entries provide key play-by-play highlights, context, and quotes that bring the event to life for readers.

**Sports Column:** An opinion-based piece about a sports-related issue, team, or event. Strong entries use a clear voice and original perspective, backed by solid reasoning and context.

**Sports Feature:** A human-interest story about an athlete, coach, or sports-related issue. These pieces should spotlight personalities, challenges, or behind-the-scenes elements—not game coverage.

**Photography**

**News Photo (excluding sports):** A photo that captures the action, emotion, or significance of a newsworthy event. Strong entries demonstrate timing, composition, and storytelling through imagery.

**Sports Photo:** A photo that captures athletic action, emotion, or reaction. Strong entries freeze a dynamic moment or reveal the human side of competition.

**Photo Essay (sports or non-sports):** A series of related photos that tell a story when viewed together. May be presented as a spread, digital layout, or printed collection. Strong entries show variety, sequencing, and narrative flow.

**Art and Graphics**

**Infographic:** Visual representation of information, data, or trends that makes complex ideas easier to understand. Strong entries combine accuracy, clarity, and engaging design. Note whether a template or online generator was used.

**Please refer to the above category descriptions so that you’ll know how the LSPA defines categories and the elements judges will use to determine winning submissions. Remember to let us know which TWO entries you would like considered for each category.**

**Questions? Contact Kyrin Lewis at** [**lspamanship@lsu.edu**](mailto:lspamanship@lsu.edu).