IHSPA Fall Conferences

Writing, Yearbook, Cartoon, and Photography Contests

Students from your school may compete in the On-the-Spot Opinion, News, and Sports Writing, Editorial Cartoon, Photography, Yearbook Design and Yearbook Copy/Caption contests during this year's State and Regional Conferences. Multiple students from each school may enter each competition. Contestants cover an assigned news or sports presentation in the writing and editorial cartoon contests; these assignments will be designated in the conference brochure, which will be available upon arrival at the registration desk. Digital photo contestants will cover the conference. Space is limited, so register early if you would like your students to participate in the On-the-Spot contests.

Overview of Editorial Cartoon, Opinion Writing, Yearbook Design, Yearbook Copy/Caption, News Writing and Sports Writing Contests:

- The contestants from your school should be prepared to take notes during the designated speaker's presentation. Dictionaries, electronic spell checkers, thesauruses and stylebooks are allowed. Bring notebooks, 8.5 x 11 sheets of lined paper for writing and blank sheets for drawing, pens for writing, or pencils for drawing, erasers or correction fluid.
- Following the presentation, contestants proceed to the room indicated in the program brochure to write or draw, as if they were working for the school newspaper. Articles are handwritten and should be printed clearly so that judges can read them. Cartoons should be drawn on non-lined paper.
- For yearbook design, students will design one double-page layout using any approach they wish. From a provided photo sheet, students will plan their layout showing position of pictures, captions, headlines and copy block(s). Students will not be asked to write captions, copy or headlines.
- For yearbook copy/caption, students will be given a fact sheet and three photos, then will be required to write the headline, first 200 words of a copy block and captions for three pictures.
- Winners will be announced at the awards ceremony, and winning entries will be featured in the November/December IHSPA Newsletter.
- The fee for each writing and editorial cartoon contestant is $5.

Overview of Digital Photography Contests:

- The contestants from your school should be prepared to cover the conference photographically until the 11 a.m. deadline, when entries must be submitted to the conference registration desk.
- Contestants will download five photos, using their own USB connector cable, to a computer provided by IHSPA, and submit a caption for each photo.
- Winners will be announced at the awards ceremony. Photos from any of the contestants may be selected for inclusion in IHSPA publications.
- The fee for each digital photography contestant is $5.

Yearbook Desgin and Copy/Caption:

- Impact of photos; adhearing to instructions; using dominant element; proper positioning and labeling; design rules; appropriate point size; balancing photos and copy blocks; effective cropping; clear instructions to printer.
- Well-written copy; good use of quotes and transitions; captions should state more than the obvious, have varied beginnings and add knowledge; AP style, grammar and spelling; original angle/focus; headlines intrigue, invite and reflect content.

Contests Registration Form

By October 1, send this form to:
IHSPA On-the-Spot Contests
E346 Adler Journalism Building
University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA 52242-2004

_____ Contestants	_____ Contestants	_____ Contestants

Write in the Contest Title at the top of each column and list the names of Contestants underneath. Make extra copies as needed. Include payment of $5 for each contest entry.

Total Amount Enclosed for On-the-Spot Contests: _____

(If students from your school will compete in On-the-Spot Contests at both conferences, please submit separate forms for each conference.)

Location of conference: _____

HS School Name: _____

School Address: _____

_____

_____

Adviser's Name: _____

Email address: _____

Please make a copy of this sheet for your conference planning before sending the original to IHSPA.