# 2024 NEW ENGLAND BETTER NEWSPAPER COMPETITION

## COLLEGE DIVISION

Welcome to the 2024 New England Better Newspaper Competition - New England's most prestigious journalism recognition program. NENPA member colleges and universities from Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont are invited to enter.

In this packet you will find all of the information necessary to prepare your entries, including a list of competitive categories, complete rules and guidelines, and the criteria that each contest category will be judged upon. **You can find additional information on preparing entries - such as how to make PDF files smaller, extract particular pages, and how to combine several PDF files - in the Frequently Asked Questions page at the end of this packet.**

Work published by student newspapers, in print and/or online, during the **August 1, 2023 to July 31, 2024** contest year is eligible for this competition.

The deadline to submit entries is **Friday, November 15, 2024**.

Awards will be presented during the annual New England Newspaper Convention (date and location to be announced.)

We wish you the very best of luck in this year's competition! If questions come up while preparing your entries please email **students@nenpa.com** or **info@nenpa.com**.

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NEW ENGLAND **NEWSPAPER & PRESS** ASSOCIATION

2024 NEW ENGLAND BETTER NEWSPAPER COMPETITION

# RULES AND GUIDELINES
# COLLEGE DIVISION

To submit entries, go to **www.newspapercontest.com/nenpa** and register.
*Please enter association code: **NENPA***

### 1. COMPETITION YEAR
The competition is open to all New England collegiate newspapers. Work published between August 1, 2023 and July 31, 2024 is eligible. A series that starts before the cut off date but continues beyond that date is eligible in its entirety.

### 2. DEADLINES
Entries should be uploaded by **November 15, 2024**.

### 3. ELIGIBILITY
All New England colleges and universities are invited to enter the competition.

### 4. COST
This year, schools may submit up to 10 entries for a flat fee of $125. Any organization submitting more than 10 entries will be billed $20 for each additional entry.

### 5. INSUFFICIENT ENTRIES
If not enough entries are received in any category, the staff reserves the right to cancel a category and/or change the number of awards given.

**Questions?  Contact us at students@nenpa.com or info@nenpa.com**

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## 2024 NEW ENGLAND BETTER NEWSPAPER COMPETITION

# COLLEGE DIVISION

The College Division consists of **27** competitive categories:

### REPORTING / WRITING

Feature Story
General News Story
Sports Story
Sports Game Story
In-depth Reporting
Multimedia Reporting
Headline Writing
Editorial

### SECTIONS AND DESIGN

Arts & Entertainment Page or Section
Special Section or Editorial Supplement
Front Page
Opinion Page(s)
Graphic Illustration

### PHOTOJOURNALISM

Feature Photo
Sports Photo
General News Photo
Spot News Photo
Photo Series

### DIGITAL

Online News Site
Podcast
Best Video

### ADVERTISING

Best Print Ad
Best Digital Ad

### SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Collaborative Journalism

### TOP HONORS

Top College Journalist
College Rising Star
Newspaper of the Year

*presented by:*
New England Society
of
News Editors

## 2024 NEW ENGLAND BETTER NEWSPAPER COMPETITION
# COLLEGE DIVISION
To submit entries, go to **www.newspapercontest.com/nenpa**
*Please enter association code: NENPA*

*NOTE: All entries must be the work of the student publication. Material from syndicated services, wire services, etc. are not eligible to submit as their own work. **Each submission should be a single pdf that includes all pages—please do not submit every page separately.***

## REPORTING / WRITING

**Feature Story** - Judges will be looking for lively, readable coverage and will be asked to consider the quality of the reporting and writing, as well as its presentation. No sports stories in this category.

**News Story** - Single news story, can be accompanied by related sidebars published the same day. Judges will be asked to consider the quality of the reporting and writing, and the significance of the story, as well as its presentation.

**Sports Story** - Single sports story. The story can be about any sport, athlete or team at any level. Judges will be asked to consider the quality/originality of the subject matter and its treatment.

**Sports Game Story** - Covering a sporting event, written on deadline. Judges will be asked to consider the quality of reporting, writing, and presentation.

**In-depth Reporting** - Single story or series of stories. Entries should include a cover letter detailing efforts required to develop and substantiate the story or series, and any results or follow up. Judges will be asked to consider worthiness of subject and quality of reporting — including the use of multiple sources, data, quotes, clarity of writing and depth of information.

**Multimedia Reporting -** This category recognizes a packaged news story of any type that creatively and effectively incorporates multimedia components in its presentation – including print, photography, audio and/or video, slides, exhibits, reader interaction, etc. Please submit a note that describes the effort to report the story and the rationale for the formats used, along with tearsheets and URL.

**Headline Writing** - Each entry submitted should be for an outstanding headline written for a single story, and must include the story. Judges will be asked to consider effectiveness of the headline in telling the story, fairness in the headline's representation of the story content, colorful use of words, appropriate size for space and story.

**Editorial** - Please include the full page that includes the editorial submitted. Judges will be asked to consider quality of writing, fairness, significance of subject matter and demonstrated importance to the audience.

## PHOTOJOURNALISM
*Submission Guidelines*

- ***A series of photos may be entered in only the Photo Series category, but photos entered as part of a series may also be entered as individual photos in other categories.***

- All entries must be submitted as JPEG files .

- **Tearsheets** - In addition to the JPEG, each entry MUST be accompanied by a digital tearsheet of the page.

- If the image appeared online only, a screenshot and/or a link to the image must be provided.

**Feature Photo** - Any photo showing an unusual event, item or person, (not necessarily of a specific news event) or an unusual photo of a commonplace event, item or person.

**General News Photo** - Any photo of a local happening that is known, assigned and planned for in advance, such as political rallies, town meetings, drum and bugle corps competition, etc.

**Photo Series –** Two or more images that are taken and tell a story.

**Sports Photo** - A photo that captures the spirit of a sports event, competition or team.

**Spot News Photo** - Photos of unexpected news events, such as fires, accidents, unrest or disasters of any kind, for which there is no advance assignment or planning.

## DIGITAL

**Online News Site** - Entries will be judged on content quality, timeliness of information, presentation and visual appeal, ease of navigation, usability, use of photos and/or graphics, use of links to other sites, integration of advertising, and overall value to the audience. Please submit your URL (including a password if required). Judges will view sites on a random day that will be stipulated by NENPA.

**Best Podcast -** This category recognizes journalistic storytelling told through a podcast on newspaper websites. Judges will consider quality of subject matter that educates, inspires and/or entertains. Entries may be an individual episode or one of a series within the contest year. A supporting description may be submitted.

**Best Video -** This category recognizes the best video on newspaper websites, including news, feature, entertainment, or sports. Judges will consider the quality of the content, the production quality of the piece, and how well it conveyed the story.

## SECTIONS AND DESIGN

**Front Page** - Judges will be asked to consider story/content selection, makeup, design, typography, general appearance, use of headlines and subheads in relationship to stories, and effective, dramatic use of photography.

**Opinion Page** - Please include your entire op-ed or commentary page(s) as your entry. Judges will be asked to consider variety, imagination, local focus, quality of writing, significance/effectiveness of editorials, columns, layout, and overall impact of editorial page(s).

**Arts & Entertainment Page or Section** - Judges will be looking for lively, readable coverage and critique of the local arts and entertainment scene. This should be a weekly or periodic section.

**Special Section or Editorial Supplement** - The supplement may cover any subject except entertainment. All editorial copy must be written by members of the newspaper staff, or written exclusively for the newspaper submitting the entry. Judges will be asked to consider: topic choice and reader interest, quality of writing, presentation and section structure.

**Graphic Illustration** - Recognizing artwork other than photography that is used to tell, explain or clarify a story through the use of illustrations, maps, charts, diagrams or other graphics. Please include a tearsheet or screenshot of digital work and any accompanying story with this entry.

## ADVERTISING

**Best Print Ad** - Entries should be paid ads created by your newspaper for one of its advertisers. Ads may be black & white or color. Judges will be asked to consider the basic idea, layout (including typography, art work, organization), copy, use of color and originality.

**Best Digital Ad** - Entries can be a single ad or campaign that the paper developed for one of its advertisers. Judges will be asked to consider the basic idea, layout (including typography, art work, organization), copy, use of color and unique capabilities the digital format offers, as well as originality.

## SPECIAL RECOGNITION

**Collaborative Journalism -** This award honors student newsrooms who have formed partnerships or collaborations to cover a topic, story, or community. Entries should include documentation from each partner in the collaboration covering the contributions from various entities that made the collaboration a success. A winning entry should show creativity and innovation through a partnership that resulted in outstanding journalism and unique storytelling approaches. If a professional news organization submits the same entry, the college will receive a credit for one entry in the contest following year.

# SPECIAL RECOGNITION

*The following awards are presented by the New England Society of News Editors:*

**TOP COLLEGE JOURNALIST –** A ***college senior*** who epitomized the best of the craft over his or her college journalism career. Nominees may be reporters, editors, copy editors or digital journalists.

**COLLEGE RISING STAR AWARD –** Honors an ***undergrad*** who is already distinguishing her or himself as a standout in the newsroom. Nominees may be reporters, editors, copy editors or digital journalists.

> *Entry qualifications for both:*
> *Must be a college student studying journalism or a related field in a New England school. Please submit the following materials: cover letter, resume or biography, letter of recommendation,* **AND** *a body of published work in a school news publication, general circulation newspaper, or a similar publication* **AND/OR** *a body of work prepared for a journalism class.* **Each submission should be a single pdf that includes all pages—please do not submit every page separately.**

## NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Upload two editions of your newspaper that were published within the contest dates (August 1, 2023 – July 31, 2024), along with your URL and a cover letter.

Our panel of regional editors will judge your newspaper based on design, editing, writing, coverage and service to its readership. First, Second and Third Place will be awarded.

# Frequently asked questions….

## How does registration work?

Go to the online contest platform -- www.newspapercontest.com/nenpa. Here you will find a link to register along with specific instructions for registration. **Use association code: NENPA**

## What file formats are accepted for uploading?

Acceptable formats include PDFs, URL links, and JPEG (for photos and graphics). **Note that a PDF or JPEG ensures our judges will be able to view your entries.** A URL bringing the judge directly to the item, without paywalls or registration required, is also accepted. If your site does have a paywall or required registration, you must include login information in the explanation field when submitting the entry. Entries will be disqualified if there is a paywall and no login information is provided.

## How can I make my PDF smaller

For categories not pertaining to photography, graphics, or design we recommend optimizing the PDF through the PDF editor settings/tools - there is usually an "Optimize" option under File or Tools. There are also a number of online PDF compressors that allow you to quickly reduce the size of your PDF. We suggest www.pdfcompressor.com. This method will effect photos and graphics so do not use where those elements are being judged. Most newspaper PDFs include high-resolution grayscale or CMYK images for printing. However, PDF contest entries will be viewed and judged on a computer monitor, which displays at low resolution (72-96 dpi) in RGB color. Changes in resolution and color mode of images are the most effective ways to reduce file size without sacrificing quality. In PDFs, the text is always clear regardless of resolution. The resolution only relates to photos and graphics. Reducing resolution by half reduces image file size by 75%. The recommended max. resolution of 96 dpi can be changed via the PDF editors settings/preferences. Color Mode: Converting from CMYK to RGB color will reduce the image file size by another 25%. This can be done in the editor settings. Before submitting be sure to check the final entry PDF against the original (prior to compressing or changing resolution/color) to make sure are satisfied with the results.

## How do I extract pages from full-issue or full-section PDFs?

Open the PDF file in Acrobat and choose "Extract Pages..." from the Document menu. This will allow you to save individual or sequential pages in separate files anywhere on your computer. Alternatively, you can extract certain pages by going to File > Print and select Print to PDF under the printer option. Simply select the pages/page range to print to PDF.

## How do I combine PDFs into a single file

Open the PDF that you want to appear first in the entry. Choose "Save As..." from the File menu and give it the name of the final entry. Choose "Insert Pages..." from the Document menu, choose the file that you want to appear next in the entry, then specify where that file should be inserted. When all insertions have been made, save & close the PDF. Make sure the final PDF is optimized for size/resolution

## How do I pay for my entries?

NENPA will send an invoice after the entry period is closed.

## When are awards presented?

Awards will be presented during the annual New England Newspaper Convention (date and location to be announced.)