

PRINT LARGE (60,000 + circ.)

Journalists whose work had significant reach into Ohio during 2020 are eligible. Entrants need not be SPJ members.

Best Arts Reporting

Outstanding coverage of arts or entertainment, demonstrated by a selection of three news or feature articles by a single writer.

Best Business Reporting

Outstanding coverage of business or development, demonstrated by a selection of three articles by a writer or team, such as in a series.

Best Children's Issues Reporting

Reporting that best serves the needs of children, either by exposing an abuse or exploring solutions to challenges faced by youth, demonstrated by one article.

Best Consumer Reporting

Reporting that informs readers about a consumer product hazard or exposes questionable behavior in the marketplace, demonstrated by three articles.

Best Criminal Justice Reporting

Submit three stories on crime or a law enforcement issue, including stories from the courts.

Best Deadline Reporting

Coverage of a disaster or major news event published within 24 hours, and demonstrating excellent teamwork and use of real people to tell the stories. Submit three articles.

Best Editorial/Criticism Writing

Submit three editorials or columns that expose inadequacy and a need for change.

Best Education Issues Reporting

Submit three stories on education issues and schools that aid the public through revealing breaking news, investigative reporting and enterprise stories.

Best Explanatory Journalism

Reporting that explains a public issue or need. May include words, photos and graphics and the use of real people to tell the story. Submit one article.

Best Feature Reporting

Submit three articles that demonstrate creativity in a human interest, non-breaking news event.

Best Government Reporting

Outstanding individual or team coverage of city, county or state government. Include three articles or series.

Best Headline Writing

Outstanding headline writing. Include six headlines that are creative, concise or otherwise effective in conveying the essence of a story or pulling readers in.

Best Investigative Reporting

Reporting in the public interest, showing use of database reporting and public records law, outstanding writing, photos and graphics, demonstrated by one article or series supported by photos and graphics.

Best Minority Issues Reporting

Submit one article that best addresses the issues and challenges faced by a minority group.

Best Political Reporting

Three stories that demonstrate outstanding coverage of state or local candidates or issues.

Best Public Service Journalism

Best effort by a publication or journalist to connect with the community in a different way, such as by encouraging civic/political engagement or participation, demonstrated by one article.

Best Religion Reporting

One story that explores spirituality, the search for faith in modern life, or issues and challenges religious communities face.

Best Rock and Roll Feature Writing/Commentary/Review

Best example of feature writing about rock and roll musicians and music. Submit one article.

Best Science/Medical Reporting

Coverage that enlightens readers about science or medicine, demonstrated by three articles.

Best Social Issues Reporting

Submit one story on social justice issues, such as poverty, homelessness, substandard housing, public health or social work.

Best Sports Reporting

Outstanding coverage of sports, demonstrated by three articles by a writer or team.

Best Website

Best website by a publication. Provide your web address for judges to access.

BEST OF SHOW—PRINT LARGE (60,000 + circ.)

Journalists whose work had significant reach into Ohio during 2020 are eligible. Entrants need not be SPJ members.

Best Columnist in Ohio

A portfolio of six columns by a single writer.

Best Critic in Ohio

A portfolio of the work of a single critic, with six examples. The work may include reviews of plays, movies, restaurants, or the visual or performing arts.

Best Daily Newspaper

Four editions of a daily newspaper. Judges will look at reporting, writing, photography, use of graphics and illustrations and overall design quality of all sections. Submit PDFs.

Best Graphic Designer in Ohio

Submit three examples of page design and/or art illustration by a single graphic artist.

Best Page One Design

Submit front pages of three editions of the newspaper.

Best Photographer in Ohio

A portfolio of the work of a single photographer, including six examples of deadline and or non-deadline images.

Emil Dansker Award – Best Reporter in Ohio

A portfolio of work by one reporter. Include six examples that show a balance of deadline, non-deadline, and feature writing. This award is named in honor of Emil Dansker, a founding member of the Cincinnati SPJ Chapter, who lived a life committed to journalism and was a beloved mentor to journalists and his students.

Best Special Section

A single special section or insert published on any topic. Submit PDF.

Best Videographer

Best visual storyteller for a print publication who demonstrates excellence in videography and sound in spot news, general assignment or specialty reporting, demonstrated by three samples.

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Outstanding coverage of business or development, demonstrated by a selection of three articles by a writer or team.

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Reporting that best serves the needs of children, either by exposing an abuse or exploring solutions to challenges faced by youth, demonstrated by one article.

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Reporting that informs readers about a consumer product hazard or exposes questionable behavior in the marketplace, demonstrated by three articles.

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Submit three stories on crime or a law enforcement issue, including stories from the courts.

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Submit three editorials or columns that expose inadequacy and a need for change.

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Submit three stories on education issues and schools that aid the public through revealing breaking news, investigative reporting and enterprise stories.

Best Explanatory Journalism

Reporting that explains a public issue or need. May include words, photos and graphics and the use of real people to tell the story. Submit one article.

Best Feature Reporting

Submit three articles that demonstrate creativity in a human interest, non-breaking news event.

Best Government Reporting

Outstanding individual or team coverage of city, county or state government. Include three articles or series.

Best Headline Writing

Outstanding headline writing. Include six headlines that are creative, concise or otherwise effective in conveying the essence of a story or pulling readers in.

Best Investigative Reporting

Reporting in the public interest, showing use of database reporting and public records law, outstanding writing, photos and graphics, demonstrated by one article or series supported by photos and graphics.

Best Minority Issues Reporting

Submit one article that best addresses the issues and challenges faced by a minority group.

Best Political Reporting

Submit three articles that demonstrate outstanding coverage of state or local candidates or issues.

Best Public Service Journalism

Best effort by a publication or journalist to connect with the community in a different way, such as by encouraging civic/political engagement or participation, demonstrated by one article.

Best Religion Reporting

Submit one story that explores spirituality, the search for faith in modern life, or issues and challenges religious communities face.

Best Rock and Roll Feature Writing/Commentary/Review

Best example of feature writing about rock and roll musicians and music. Submit one article.

Best Science/Medical Reporting

Coverage that enlightens readers about science or medicine, demonstrated by three articles.

Best Social Issues Reporting

Submit one article on social justice issues, such as poverty, homelessness, substandard housing, public health or social work.

Best Sports Reporting

Outstanding coverage of sports, demonstrated by a three articles by a writer or team.

Best Website

Best website by a publication. Provide your web address for judges to access.

BEST OF SHOW—PRINT SMALL (< 60,000 circ.)

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Best Columnist

A portfolio of six columns by a single writer.

Best Critic

A portfolio of the work of a single critic, with six examples. The work may include reviews of plays, movies, restaurants, or the visual or performing arts.

Best Daily Newspaper

Four editions of a daily newspaper. Judges will look at reporting, writing, photography, use of graphics and illustrations and overall design quality of all sections. Submit PDFs.

Best Graphic Designer

Submit three examples of page design and/or art illustration by a single graphic artist.

Best Monthly

Two issues of a monthly magazine that is not a trade publication (see separate category). Judges will look for outstanding journalism presented in a creative manner. Submit PDF.

Best Page One Design

Submit front pages of three editions of the newspaper.

Best Photographer

A portfolio of the work of a single photographer, including six examples of deadline and non-deadline images.

Emil Dansker Award – Best Reporter in Ohio

A portfolio of work by one reporter. Include six examples that show a balance of deadline, non-deadline, and feature writing. This award is named in honor of Emil Dansker, a founding member of the Cincinnati SPJ Chapter, who lived a life committed to journalism and was a beloved mentor to journalists and his students.

Best Special Section

A freestanding publication, such as a reprint, book or other editorial product with outstanding content and design. Submit PDF.

Best Videographer

Best visual storyteller for a print publication who demonstrates excellence in videography and sound in spot news, general assignment or specialty reporting, demonstrated by three samples.

Best Weekly Newspaper

Six editions of one weekly newspaper. Judges will look for serious journalism that serves the community through outstanding reporting, effectively presented. Submit PDF.

TELEVISION

Stations in all markets compete against each other. Journalists whose work had significant reach into Ohio during 2020 are eligible. Entrants need not be SPJ members.

Best Business Reporting

Outstanding coverage of business or development, demonstrated by a selection of three reports by a reporter or team, such as in a series.

Best Consumer Reporting

Reports (up to three) that expose products or companies that cheat consumers, or which offer news of new products or services. Can be breaking or investigative.

Best Continuing Coverage

Reports (up to three) that demonstrate individual or team continued excellence as new information is uncovered beyond the initial event.

Best Criminal Justice Reporting

Report (one) demonstrating excellence in coverage of any facet of law enforcement, from initial field report through the court system.

Best Documentary

Best long-form program appearing outside a regular newscast, covering human interest, sports, entertainment, investigative or any other single topic or event.

Best Education Issues Reporting

Submit one report on education issues and schools that aid the public through revealing breaking news, investigative reporting and enterprise reporting.

Best Enterprise Reporting

Report (one) that shows initiative and creative individuality in uncovering news other outlets missed.

Best Feature Reporting

Reports (up to three) that demonstrate creativity in a human interest, non-breaking news event.

Best General Assignment Reporting

Reports (up to three) that demonstrates accuracy, initiative and creativity in a same-day news event.

Best Government Reporting

Best reports (up to three) on the business at hand of local or state government. May be a breaking, continuing or investigative story.

Best Health Care Feature Reporting

Reports (up to three) that demonstrate creativity, originality, depth and clarity in health care reporting.

Best Investigative Reporting

Reporting in the public interest, showing use of database reporting and public records law, outstanding writing, photos and graphics, demonstrated by up to three samples.

Best Minority Issues Coverage

Report (one) or long-form public service program that best shows issues facing minorities, be they racial, sexual or religious.

Best Political Reporting

Submit three reports that demonstrate outstanding coverage of state or local candidates or issues.

Best Science/Medical Reporting

Coverage that enlightens readers about science or medicine, demonstrated by three reports.

Best Sports Reporting

Selection of reports (up to three) that demonstrates continuing creativity, originality, depth and clarity in sports reporting.

Best Spot News

Reports (up to three) that best exemplify breaking coverage on a story that's developing as it airs or that airs under deadline within hours of the event.

Best Website

Best website run by a television station. Submit website address for judges to view live.

BEST OF SHOW—TELEVISION

Stations in all markets compete against each other. Journalists whose work had significant reach into Ohio during 2020 are eligible.

Best Anchor

Best on-air excellence in delivery, authority, poise, and writing. Include samples from more than one newscast. Maximum time for submission: 15 minutes.

Best News Operation

Best overall news department to show excellence in newscasts, special reports and any other programming. Maximum time: 30 minutes.

Best Newscast

Best daily newscast. Submit entire program minus commercial breaks.

Best Public Affairs Program

Best public affairs program. Submit entire program minus commercials.

Best Reporter

Best reporter to demonstrate excellence in live and taped segments that show versatility, dependability and creativity in deadline and non-deadline situations. Maximum time for submission: 15 minutes.

Best Videographer

Best visual storyteller who demonstrates excellence in videography and sound in spot news, general assignment or specialty reporting, demonstrated by three samples. Maximum time for submission: 15 minutes.

RADIO

Stations in all markets compete against each other. Journalists whose work had significant reach into Ohio during 2020 are eligible. Entrants need not be SPJ members.

Best Business Reporting

Outstanding coverage of business or development, demonstrated by a selection of three reports by a reporter or team, such as in a series.

Best Consumer Reporting

Reports (up to three) that expose products or companies that cheat consumers, or which offer news of new products or services. Can be breaking or investigative.

Best Continuing Coverage

Reports (up to three) that demonstrate individual or team continued excellence as new information is uncovered beyond the initial event.

Best Criminal Justice Reporting

Report (one) demonstrating excellence in coverage of any facet of law enforcement, from initial field report through the court system.

Best Documentary

Best long-form program appearing outside a regular newscast, covering human interest, sports, entertainment, investigative or any other single topic or event.

Best Education Issues Reporting

Submit one report on education issues and schools that aid the public through revealing breaking news, investigative reporting and enterprise reporting.

Best Enterprise Reporting

Report (one) that shows initiative and creative individuality in uncovering news other outlets missed.

Best Feature Reporting

Reports (up to three) that demonstrate creativity in a human interest, non-breaking news event.

Best General Assignment Reporting

Reports (up to three) that demonstrates accuracy, initiative and creativity in a same-day news event.

Best Government Reporting

Reports (up to three) on the business at hand of local or state government. May be a breaking, continuing or investigative story.

Best Health Care Feature Reporting

Reports (up to three) that demonstrate creativity, originality, depth and clarity in health care reporting.

Best Investigative Reporting

Reporting in the public interest, showing use of database reporting and public records law, outstanding writing, photos and graphics, demonstrated by up to three samples.

Best Minority Issues Coverage

Report (one) or long-form public service program which best shows issues facing minorities, be they racial, sexual or religious.

Best Political Reporting

Submit three reports that demonstrate outstanding coverage of state or local candidates or issues.

Best Science/Medical Reporting

Coverage that enlightens readers about science or medicine, demonstrated by three reports.

Best Sports Reporting

Selection of reports (up to three) that demonstrates continuing creativity, originality, depth and clarity in sports reporting

Best Spot News

Reports (up to three) that best exemplify breaking coverage on a story that's developing as it airs or that airs under deadline within hours of the event.

Best Website

Best website run by a radio station. Submit website address for judges to view live.

BEST OF SHOW—RADIO

Stations in all markets compete against each other. Journalists whose work had significant reach into Ohio during 2020 are eligible. Entrants need not be SPJ members.

Best Anchor

Best on-air excellence in delivery, authority, poise, and writing. Include samples from more than one newscast. Maximum time for submission: 15 minutes.

Best News Operation

Best overall news department to show excellence in newscasts, special reports and any other programming. Maximum tape length: 30 minutes.

Best Newscast

Best daily newscast. Submit entire program minus commercial breaks.

Best Public Affairs Program

Best public affairs program. Submit entire program minus commercials.

Best Reporter

Best reporter to demonstrate excellence in live and taped segments that show versatility, dependability and creativity in deadline and non-deadline situations. Maximum time for submission: 15 minutes.

DIGITAL MEDIA

Best online storyteller who demonstrates excellence in spot news, general assignment or specialty reporting. All websites and links must remain active throughout 2020.

Best Arts/Entertainment Story

For the best coverage (story or single series) of an arts/entertainment topic. Judges will look at quality of writing, creativity and overall presentation.

Best Business/Tech Story

For the best coverage (story or single series) of a business or technology topic. Judges will look at quality of writing, sourcing and overall presentation.

Best Editorial Writing

For the single most persuasive editorial that addresses an inadequacy or takes a position on a state or local issue.

Best Education Issues Reporting

Submit three stories on education issues and schools that aid the public through revealing breaking news, investigative reporting and enterprise stories.

Best Feature

For the best feature story or series. Judges will look at quality of writing, creativity and overall presentation.

Best Government Reporting

Outstanding individual or team coverage of city, county or state government. Include three articles or series.

Best Graphic Design/Navigation

For the best design and/or art illustration, ease of navigation and quality of links.

Best Headline Writing

For outstanding headline writing. Include six headlines that are creative, concise or otherwise effective in conveying the essence of a story or pulling readers in. Judges will look for reader appeal, impact and/or humor.

Best Investigative Reporting

Reporting in the public interest, showing use of database reporting and public records law, outstanding writing, photos and graphics, demonstrated by one article or series supported by photos and graphics.

Best Medical/Science Story

For the best coverage of a medical or science topic (story or single series). Judges will look at quality of writing, sourcing and overall presentation.

Best News Story

For the best story or single series reflecting hard news of the day. Judges will look at quality of writing, sourcing and overall presentation.

Best Political Reporting

Three stories that demonstrate outstanding coverage of state or local candidates or issues.

Best Photography

For the best black-white and/or color photography online. Judges will look at technical composition, creativity and overall visual impact. Submit URLs of at least six samples.

Best Rock and Roll Feature Writing/Commentary/Review

Best example of feature writing about rock and roll musicians and music. Submit one article.

Best Sports Coverage

For the best sports reporting (story or single series). Judges will look at quality of writing, sourcing and overall presentation.

Best Videographer

Best visual storyteller who demonstrates excellence in online videography in spot news, general assignment or specialty reporting, demonstrated by three samples.

Specialized Journalism Site

This award recognizes a journalism website that focuses on a single topic. Judges will consider content, ingenuity, interactivity and use of multimedia tools. Each entry should consist of one URL. If affiliated, site should have an independent domain name. If independent, site must be authored by Ohio resident(s). Entries that do not provide a complete and accurate URL will be disqualified. Entrants must keep their nominated entries accessible through 2020.

Best Overall Blog (news organization)

Must be published by an Ohio news organization. Blogs are defined as web pages of commentary or opinion that are updated regularly. Entries will be judged on quality of writing. Submit URLs of three blogs.

Best Overall Blog (independent)

Cannot be affiliated with an existing news organization. Blogs are defined as web pages of commentary or opinion that are updated regularly. Entries will be judged on quality of writing. Submit URLs of three blogs.

BEST OF SHOW—DIGITAL MEDIA

All URL links and all entry links must remain active throughout 2020.

Best General News Site

For the best overall website. Sites will be judged on news content, design and navigation. Submit URL(s).

Best Online Still Photographer in Ohio

A portfolio of the work of a single still photographer whose work is published online, including six examples of deadline and non-deadline images.

TRADE PUBLICATIONS

Journalists whose work had significant reach into Ohio during 2020 are eligible. Entrants need not be SPJ members.

Best Cover Design

Submit original, color copies of a cover page (three samples).

Best Department

For the best example of creativity that keeps sections fresh and informative. Submit three consecutive examples.

Best Feature Design

Submit original designs (three samples) that demonstrate creativity for a human interest, non-breaking topic.

Best General Story

For the best single story (travel, entertainment, lifestyle, etc.) published.

Best Personality Profile

For the best single personality profile published.

Best Trade Publication Website

For the best example of a website posted by a trade publication. Submit URL.

Best Trade Report

A story or series on a topic, issue or trend affecting the publication's target audience. You may briefly describe any action or change that resulted.

BEST OF SHOW—TRADE PUBLICATIONS

Journalists whose work had significant reach into Ohio during 2020 are eligible. Entrants need not be SPJ members.

Best Trade Columnist

For the best selection of columns. Submit at least two consecutive examples. The column must appear regularly.

Best Trade Publication

For best overall performance of an entire staff. Submit two complete issues. Entries judged on reporting, editing, writing, photography, design, graphics, packaging. Submit PDF.

FREELANCE PRINT LARGE (60,000+ circ.)

Freelance writers are self-employed and not affiliated with any news organization long term, but their work is published by such organizations. For this competition, freelancers may enter any category if their work has been published or broadcast by an Ohio news organization in 2020. However, writers whose work is published outside of Ohio can still compete in the Ohio SPJ Awards program, as long as they are Ohio residents. Simply identify the publishing news organization and circulation when submitting your entry. Freelance entrants may submit their work in both the Freelance categories and standard categories if their work was published by an Ohio news organization.

Best News Writing

Best news writing report that demonstrates outstanding coverage in a breaking news event.

Best Feature Writing

Best feature report that demonstrates creativity in a human interest, non-breaking news event.

Best Investigative Reporting (story or series)

Best investigative reporting in the public interest, showing use of database reporting and public records law, outstanding writing, photos and graphics.

Best Arts Review (movies, art, music, theatre, etc.)

Best review, opinion or analysis of a movie, music, theatre or art event.

Best Criticism/Editorial

Best editorial or column that exposes inadequacy and a need for change.

Best Government Reporting

Best government report of a city county or state government.

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Best Freelance Writer

Submit five published reports (can be a combination of news writing, feature writing, investigative reporting, reviews, editorials, government reporting, etc., or five reports of the same type).

FREELANCE PRINT SMALL (<60,000 circ.)

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Best News Writing

Best news writing report that demonstrates outstanding coverage in a breaking news event.

Best Feature Writing

Best feature report that demonstrates creativity in a human interest, non-breaking news event.

Best Investigative Reporting (story or series)

Best investigative reporting in the public interest, showing use of database reporting and public records law, outstanding writing, photos and graphics.

Best Arts Review (movies, art, music, theatre, etc.)

Best review, opinion or analysis of a movie, music, theatre or art event.

Best Criticism/Editorial

Best editorial or column that exposes inadequacy and a need for change.

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Best government report of a city county or state government.

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FREELANCE–DIGITAL MEDIA

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Best News Writing

Best news writing report that demonstrates outstanding coverage in a breaking news event.

Best Feature Writing

Best feature report that demonstrates creativity in a human interest, non-breaking news event.

Best Investigative Reporting (story or series)

Best investigative reporting in the public interest, showing use of database reporting and public records law, outstanding writing, photos and graphics.

Best Arts Review (movies, art, music, theatre, etc.)

Best review, opinion or analysis of a movie, music, theatre or art event.

Best Criticism/Editorial

Best editorial or column that exposes inadequacy and a need for change.

Best Government Reporting

Best government report of a city county or state government.

BEST OF SHOW—FREELANCE DIGITAL MEDIA

Freelance writers are self-employed and not affiliated with any news organization long term, but their work is published by such organizations. For this competition, freelancers may enter any category if their work has been published or broadcast by an Ohio news organization in 2020. However, writers whose work is published outside of Ohio can still compete in the Ohio SPJ Awards program, as long as they are Ohio residents. Simply identify the publishing news organization and circulation when submitting your entry. Freelance entrants may submit their work in both the Freelance categories and standard categories if their work was published by an Ohio news organization. All websites and links must remain active throughout 2020.

Best Freelance Writer

Submit five published reports (can be a combination of news writing, feature writing, investigative reporting, reviews, editorials, government reporting, etc., or five reports of the same type).

COLLEGE JOURNALISM

Student work in student publications and stations, published or broadcast in 2020, is eligible for either college or professional categories, but NOT both. Student work in professional publications and stations is NOT eligible for the college category.

Best College Feature Writing

Awarded to the college journalist who shows the most promise as a feature writer through published or aired stories.

Best College News Writing

Awarded to the college journalist who shows the most promise as a news writer, through published or aired stories.

Best College Newspaper: Non-Daily

For the best student newspaper or publication published regularly up to twice a week. Enter three issues. Submit PDF.

Best College Opinion Writing

Awarded to the college journalist who show the most promise as an opinion writer through published or aired opinion pieces.

Best College Sports Writing

Awarded to the college journalist who shows the most promise as a sports writer through published or aired stories.