





# LARGE PRINT WINNERS

*Newspapers (Circulation 60,000+)*

“Engaging content with a balance of news stories and human interest pieces. Consistent writing style pairs well with relatable photography and solid infographics.”

Smart, comprehensive, incisive coverage that exposed three pressing issues facing Ohio's educators, children and parents: declining graduation rates, the need to vaccinate preschool teachers against COVID-19 and the need for more translators in schools. The stories made wise use of data while also revealing the human side of each story and what is at stake. Thorough reporting and engaging writing as well.

“  
Excellent storytelling. These  
articles almost read like a novel. I  
was drawn in from the start.  
”

 A clear-eyed take in the wake of  
1/6; looking ahead toward  
healing while looking back to  
recall "A house divided..." 

“Powerful, accountable storytelling that explains the complex intersection of real estate, land-use, economics and power that drives — and stalls — industry and development.”

“  
Good writing.  
Interesting variety of  
topics. I like the  
embeddables.”

“Engaging, thorough and impactful — investigative journalism at its best. Excellent work by this team of journalists.”



“  
A gripping headline that binds a  
package of heartbreaking stories  
about yet another officer killed  
in the line of duty.  
”

**This is top-notch reporting. The use of database reporting of public records is the definition of accountability reporting. This storytelling can and has created real change in how (misuse of) power in policing influences race and poverty in their city. Bravo.**

**This is an incredibly impressive submission — rich with research, emotional sources, and compelling multimedia. These stories help tell a more complete version of history.**

**A gripping and important series of audio stories that broke new ground in examining the deadly problem of fraternity hazing. Through impressive reporting and compelling storytelling, The Columbus Dispatch's podcast series, "Broken Pledge," helped lead to the passage of a law in Ohio that makes hazing a felony. This was a tremendous public service that The Dispatch provided to residents of Ohio and beyond.**

“  
Great topics.  
Excellent writing.”

“  
Comprehensive,  
helpful, pointed.  
”

“A fraudulent football team that goes viral, a fallen member of a football team remembered and a female football player on a seventh-grade team profiled ... and Columbus was at the center of it all, and this reporter detailed it all.”

Kevin Aldridge gives readers an introspective look at many of the most pressing, difficult social issues facing Ohioans, particularly on street violence. His writing style is crisp and clean and to the point. Excellent work overall.



A lively, well-packaged daily chronicle, with the local news more emphasized than any other entry, which set it apart. Design is well thought out. A remarkable array of information in each paper, and the willingness to devote resources to in-depth coverage of local issues is exceptional. The front-page editorial on civil unrest and the “Kids Who Kill” feature stood out. In a strong group of entries, this was still the clear winner.



**Nicely done.**





**Very creative and  
detailed.**



A photographer with a keen eye for composition, Rebecca Benson's photos are reflective of her outstanding talent.



**Great writing**





# SMALL PRINT WINNERS

*(Circulation Under 60,000)*

“Wonderful reporting that creates an important record of the origin and process behind a highly visible and permanent public art project. Plus a good look at how school arts programs are coping with the pandemic's effects.”

“  
Outstanding business  
reporting in a very  
competitive category.”



**Ivory Towers is a pillar is of  
enterprise education journalism.  
With a stunning display, this  
work holds accountable racial  
disparities in college education.**

“Kudos to the reporter for recognizing the significance of this event and calling attention to it in a timely fashion.”

“  
Important storytelling about a  
crucial emergency service  
deserves high praise. Well  
done!  
”

“Lisa Murtha demonstrates excellent versatility in her feature writing, employing a nice mix of anecdotal and narrative storytelling and focusing on the details. She also looks at the stories that are too often overlooked, which, to my mind, is a mark of exceptional feature writing.”

This entry is extremely comprehensive in looking at the many facets of life impacted by the issue of equality. Use of numbers and graphics enhanced its presentation. But beginning with a single individual impacted by its issues captures the reader immediately, regardless of personal political views. Outstanding.

**A laser focus on the health and science issues that have mattered most to people throughout the coronavirus pandemic. Solid writing and reporting, well-visualized. Overall, an excellent effort.**

“The story on critical race theory alone is worthy of high praise. Together, this reporting shows an affinity for reporting on issues that intersect race, gender, and class, and the way that impacts education, business and power in Akron. Well done.”

“Financing, sponsorships and downtown revitalization typically would be elements of a series of business stories. Instead, a series of stories about a new sports complex used those business elements to explain changes coming to the community of Shelby.”



“An attractive and easy-to-navigate website full of great content.”

Rini Jeffers is an excellent writer with incisive arguments and sage advice, who is having an easy-to-follow coffee-house conversation with her readers. That is why she received first place in this category.

“Wonderful job with these. I generally like to see the range of a photographer. Obviously you are very good with portraits and people and those were very well done.”

I love the wide assortment of your images. Well done. I tend to like a very sharp subject and in most cases you were right on with that. The photo of the swinging child show you have what it takes. Well done.

The writing in Crain's stands out here —  
crisp, clean, with a nice mix of straight hard-  
news and feature leads. Excellent reporting.  
Editorial pages stand out, including the  
political cartoons. Good mix of opinion with  
fact-based reporting. All photography is solid  
and well-presented. Overall, excellent.



# TRADE PUBLICATION WINNERS

“Nice first-person account of trade show attendance in a pandemic world. Good use of detail and "insider" information.

“  
Good mix of news stories, profiles,  
features. Easily digestible overall  
content. Summer issue has a  
colorful design that is lively and  
entertaining.”





# TELEVISION WINNERS

“  
Compelling story with great  
video elements and new  
information and voices in  
each package.”

“Great coverage of a story that could have been tragic; your reporting helped reunite a family!”

**“WOW! Disturbing attack and cockfight, even more unbelievable the lack of action by police and prosecutors. This investigation is just one of the reasons local journalism is so important. Great job holding those in power accountable.”**

Really informative. I liked that you showcased what could be the new normal, especially for college student. Online learning was once seen as a lesser form of education, yet this report shows not only how popular it's become but how beneficial it can be to students



**Great human interest  
story**





“  
Powerful piece that  
shows what war leaves  
in its wake.”

“  
Powerful story with an emotional,  
heartbreaking interview. Nice job  
letting the Good Samaritan tell the  
story. Her SOTS really give the viewer a  
front-row seat to the horror of gun  
violence.”



“Three very interesting stories that have direct impact on your viewers. You should feel proud knowing your work is helping your community.”

  
I've never heard of this  
treatment; it sounds amazing  
and is giving relief and progress  
to those who thought they had  
no treatments left 

“Great highlight of how  
small businesses can have  
a huge impact on keeping  
us all safe.”

 What a powerfully heart  
breaking story. I hope the I-  
team continues doing work  
on this important topic.



“Great use of maps to show how many murders are impacting the community.”



**Great coverage.**



“Great job, Evan. The pieces you provided highlighted a wide range of news topics. I found that you were personable, easy to follow and engaging in each.”

**“Excellent team coverage on an important and tragic local issue. Holding officials accountable is such an important part of what we do. From the reporters to producers, anchors and writers – great job all around.”**



“  
Good storytelling,  
compelling pieces and a  
confident presence on  
camera.”

“  
Great visual and  
storytelling.  
”



# RADIO WINNERS

“Excellent package on criminal justice reporting. It doesn't get much better than this when it comes to investigative journalism. Good work. Well done!”

**A great use of the medium to  
celebrate the medium; WELL DONE!  
Sorry, 100 years of DJ patter is  
contagious. Also, a great story, well  
written and well-told.**



**Great story. Good  
reporting.**



“Thoughtful, immersive  
storytelling that goes beyond  
the sensationalism of Amish  
community. Well done.”

“Great storytelling. I felt like I was there at Dave Grohl Alley. Good use of music throughout the piece.”



“Important life-changing work for Cincinnati residents, especially over-policed, vulnerable communities.”

“A refreshing mix of the role  
Black art and music plays in the  
recognition and reckoning of  
racism in our communities.”

 A comprehensive,  
enlightening exploration of a  
hopeful, but still-controversial  
field of study. 

“The Supremes start a revolution in NCAA sports by allowing payments to scholarship athletes, and we hear insightful analysis about how the court's ruling will upend college sports.”

“  
Very good flow of  
stories.”

A rich mix of local-regional-national news, including interesting human stories — even about our connection to sports broadcast. This was a purely enjoyable newscast to listen to. Amanda's voice feels authoritative, but familiar — like a friend who I look up to or a voice of reason.

**"The Past is never dead. It's not even past."  
Archival audio is the foundation for an  
informed discussion of historic violence and  
contemporary circumstances in Cincinnati.  
This is a compelling program, framed and  
supported by historic, recorded reports; the  
radio-legacy of a community. Outstanding.**

Kabir has a knack for storytelling. From breaking news to whimsy, his voice is a trusted source in his community, showing the versatility of a veteran reporter. I especially enjoyed his contributions to OH Really! I am certain Kabir makes his community a better place to live.





# DIGITAL MEDIA WINNERS

“This was a great display and presentation of the Equity in Art series. The photos and pages were great. And the writing was great. Nice job.”

“Truly insightful articles put the pandemic into important context by talking about the impact on real people — by talking to them. In the one story, one quote — “I don’t think I ever would have left the service industry if it wasn’t for COVID, but now that I have I don’t want to go back” — summed up an enormous impact that many news outlets missed. Great job.”

**A well-stated case for readers  
to consider community  
history as a guide for  
decisions affecting the future.**

“This was a great page featuring audio, videos, graphics and text for this feature. Nice job.”

“Clear, well-organized,  
hard-hitting journalism.  
Well done.”

“Striking investigative storytelling about Ohioans who sought to overthrow democracy: These stories hold accountability where it matters most. It “comforts the afflicted and afflicts the comfortable.” This is a crucial service for Ohio.”

“  
Informational, very  
accessible science  
reporting. Very nice job.  
”



“  
Good writing and good  
use of maps, photos,  
documents, etc.”

**The Athletic knows national-quality work when it hires, and this reporter covering the Cleveland baseball team explores its past, present and possible future in three magazine-quality profiles**



**Nicely put together feel-good story that touches just about everyone. Good look at the positive side of policing.**



“A refreshing online magazine with family friendly things-to-do and culture pieces that makes me want to visit the Buckeye state.”

**This is a great site - it's easy to use and find stories. Has a great visual presentation. Not too many words/stories on the homepage make it easier to navigate.**

“Amazing photography and I like that you varied the type. The sharpness of each focused areas was fabulous and the variety showed your capabilities in many ways.”

“Excellent clarity and  
well done in every  
image.”



# FREELANCE WINNERS



A well-done  
remembrance of a  
towering figure in  
musical theater.



“  
Good first person  
narrative with good use  
of photos and a map.”

“  
Very in depth feature  
article. Great writing.  
”

A thoughtful review that considers the artists and their work carefully and offers readers a way to approach the theme of the exhibition and the nuances of the individual artworks.

“  
Good writing. Nice  
use of photos, data  
and maps.”

**This was a passionate, equitable retelling of the lingering impacts of industrialization on racial, gender and class systems, and the current health and environmentalism challenges. I was particularly struck with the level of care and precision the writer had in describing the lives of workers who were just doing their jobs and raising their families.**

“Interesting and easy-to-understand article on bio-coding – for us non-techie types. Well done and easy to read.”