

2009 South Dakota AP Student Journalism Contest

Entry Deadline: February 16, 2009

Contest Period

The contest period is from January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008.

Eligibility

1. Any person who was enrolled in a post-secondary education institution in South Dakota when the entry was produced.
2. Entries may be from student media or from a student internship.
3. Each entry must have been published or aired within the contest period.
4. Each entry must be accompanied by the official entry form, available at www.ap.org/southdakota, which includes verification of when and where the entry was published or aired, along with an optional statement of why the entry deserves to win.
5. Entries not meeting these requirements may be disqualified. Entries may be moved into a different category at the discretion of the judges.

Students may enter in the following media divisions: Photo, Text, Audio, Video, Website and Freedom of Information.

Prizes

First, second, third and honorable mention awards may be given in each category, at the discretion of judges. Winners will be recognized at the AP Managing Editor's annual meeting and the AP Broadcasters annual meeting.

Entry Deadlines

Entries must be in the Sioux Falls AP bureau no later than **February 16, 2009**, to allow time for judging. Entries will be retained at the AP office and may be picked up after awards are presented.

Entries should be sent to:

**The Associated Press
330 North Main Avenue, Suite 301
Sioux Falls, SD 57104**

Entry Fee

The entry fee will be \$10 per entry, payable by check to South Dakota AP Contest.

Questions

Call 800-952-9911 or e-mail tharaldson@ap.org.

Student Photo Contest Rules

Entries shall be tear sheets, PDF's or prints of the photos, each entry in a separate folder or large envelope with the contest entry form attached to the **outside of the folder or envelope**. Please use the entry form provided at www.ap.org/southdakota.

Each photo also should be **clearly labeled** with the name of the photographer, address, e-mail, phone and school attended, along with the contest category. Deadline February 16, 2009.

Categories

1. **News photo**
2. **Sports photo**
3. **Feature photo**

Judging Criteria:

- Difficulties encountered and the conditions under which the photographer worked.
- Dramatic quality achieved covering a story where unrehearsed action is obvious.
- Importance or interest of the story that the picture illustrates.
- Technical quality inherent to the photo. If the entry is from a printed publication, the quality of print reproduction shall not be considered.

Student Newswriting Contest Rules

Each entry shall be submitted in the form of a tear sheet, clipping, PDF, or photocopy inside a letter-sized manila folder or large envelope. A contest entry label should be affixed to the outside of each folder or envelope, forms available at www.ap.org/southdakota.

Each entry also should be **clearly labeled** with the name of the writer, address, e-mail, phone and school attended, along with the contest category. Deadline February 16, 2009.

Categories

1. **News story**
2. **Sports story**
3. **Feature story**

Judging criteria: Entries will be judged on subject, originality, quality of writing and impact.

Student Radio/Audio Contest Rules

Entries should be individual stories, no longer than 5 minutes each, recorded on a standard CD. Each CD must be labeled with the student's name, address, e-mail, phone and school attended, along with the contest category.

Each entry must be accompanied by a contest entry form and verification form, available at www.ap.org/southdakota. Deadline February 16, 2009.

Categories

- 1. News story**
- 2. Sports story**
- 3. Feature story**
- 4. Newscast**

Judging Criteria: Choice of words, delivery, originality, appropriate tone, and use of sound.

Student Television/Video Contest Rules

Entries should be a digital recording on a standard CD or DVD. Entries should not exceed 10 minutes each. Documentaries must be represented by a 10-minute excerpt. The full-length documentary may also be included but it will not be judged except in the case of a tie.

Each CD or DVD must be labeled with the student's name, address, e-mail, phone and school attended, along with the contest category.

Each entry must be accompanied by a contest entry and verification form, available at www.ap.org/southdakota. Deadline February 16, 2009.

Categories

- 1. News/Sports story**
- 2. Feature story**
- 3. Documentary**
- 4. Newscast**

Judging Criteria: Choice of words, delivery, originality, appropriate tone, editing, videography and use of sound.

Student Website Contest Rules

Entries are limited to *NEWS* Websites, whether designed for a class, for student media or for professional media. The entry will be the URL of the Website, and it must be available for judges to visit as of the February 16, 2009, deadline.

The entry should include the entry and verification form, available at www.ap.org/southdakota. Entrants should include a one-page statement of how they contributed to the site, whether in concept, design, functionality or content.

Judging criteria include graphics, design, functionality, ease of use, quality of information and timeliness.

Student FOI Contest Rules

Entries may be in any of the forms accepted in the rest of the contest: text, photo, video, audio or Website. Entrants should follow the instructions for submitting in each of those other categories and mark the entry form as an "FOI" entry. Use the same entry and verification form, available at www.ap.org/southdakota. Deadline February 16, 2009.

Entries in the FOI category may also be entered elsewhere in the contest, or they may be entered only in the FOI category.

Entrants should include a one-page statement giving background on how the coverage was achieved, any difficulties faced, and any impact that resulted.

Judging criteria: Best work by a student journalist, regardless of format, that sheds light on a Freedom of Information or government openness issue. The sole criteria is whether the coverage advanced the cause of the public's right to know, resulted in holding officials accountable or uncovered information that otherwise would not have been reported.

South Dakota Student AP Journalism Contest Official Entry Form

Student name: _____ Mailing Address: _____

E-mail: _____ Telephone/cell: _____

School attended: _____

Circle one category for this entry:

Photo: News Sports Feature

Text: News Sports Feature

Audio: News Sports Feature Newscast

Video: News/Sports Feature Documentary Newscast

Website

FOI

The following verifies that the entry was produced by a student, during the contest year, and if published or aired, the entry was published or aired during the contest period. Check the one that applies and show the appropriate signature:

____ I verify this entry was produced by a student and appeared in my publication, on my Website or on the air of my station during 2008.

Signature of advisor: _____ Date: _____

OR

Signature of employer: _____ Date: _____

Use the space below, or attach another page, for an optional statement explaining qualities of the entry, difficulties encountered, or situation to be considered by judges: