

2024 IJEA Newspaper & Digital News Media Contest Division 1 Results — Enrollment up to 840

2024 BEST PUBLICATION AWARDS

The results for Best Publication are determined by the number of points accumulated in the 30 individual categories of the IJEA Newspaper & Digital News Media Contest.

- 1st place in a category = 5 points
- 2nd place in a category = 4 points
- 3rd place in a category = 3 points
- Honorable mention (HM) in a category = 1 point

Best Overall Publication | Most points regardless of publication type

1st: U-High Midway — University of Chicago Laboratory H.S., Logan Aimone, adviser
2nd: The Purple Clarion — Harrisburg H.S., Cathy Wall, adviser
3rd: Tiger News Today — Herscher H.S., Kerri Robinson, adviser

Best Print Publication | Most points by publication that appears in print only

1st: Tiger News Today — Herscher H.S., Kerri Robinson, adviser
HM: Cougar Chronicles (Special Issue) — Crane Medical Prep H.S., Michele Drayton, adviser

Best Digital Publication | Most points by publication that appears online only

1st: The Ram Page — DePaul College Prep H.S., Liz Galvez & Leo Heinz, advisers
2nd: Launch Pad — Okawville Junior/Senior H.S., Dana Donovan, adviser

Best Hybrid Publication | Most points by publication that appears both in print and online

1st: U-High Midway — University of Chicago Laboratory H.S., Logan Aimone, adviser
2nd: The Purple Clarion — Harrisburg H.S., Cathy Wall, adviser
3rd: Bogan Bytes — Bogan H.S., Maria Baltsas, adviser

2024 INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

The Division 1 results for each category of the IJEA Newspaper & Digital News Media Contest are listed in the pages that follow. ***The categories are listed alphabetically, one category per page.*** Congratulations to all!

Best Advertisement (Enrollment Division 1)

Place Name: First Place
Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
Entry Title: Woolard's Lawn Care
Entry Credit: Avery Woolard
Judge Comment: Nicely done! Very appealing illustration and lots of solid information about the business. No nonsense but still fun!

Place Name: Second Place
Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
Entry Title: Egyptian Health Department
Entry Credit: Francesca Messerschmidt
Judge Comment: Another fine ad. Love the Incky mascot. Good info and pleasing layout.

Competition Comment: Both entries were very strong! The lawn care ad popped off the screen a bit more for me, but both were genuinely commendable. My only complaint is that they ran too small for my taste, but I'm sure that has to do with ad rates, etc. Again, my compliments to both designers.

Best Alternative Storytelling (Enrollment Division 1)

Place Name: First Place
Contestant Name: University of Chicago
Laboratory High School
Entry Title: Fresh faces
Entry Credit: Audrey Park, Sahana Unni, Katie
Sasamoto-Kurisu
Judge Comment: Well done and thorough.

Place Name: Second Place
Contestant Name: University of Chicago
Laboratory High School
Entry Title: U-High students also aren't too
enthusiastic (poll)
Entry Credit: Katie Sasamoto-Kurisu
Judge Comment: I would have liked to know
the total size of the senior class, not just
those who responded.

Place Name: Third Place
Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
Entry Title: Who is celebrating what on the
second Monday in October?
Entry Credit: Avery Woolard
Judge Comment: Great infographic. I would
have submitted it for the infographic
category, but I understand the effort that
went into the story and why it fits here, too.

Place Name: Honorable Mention
Contestant Name: Herscher High School
Entry Title: Tigers Tell All
Entry Credit: Bennett Crane, Jaden Jaime
Judge Comment: Really good photos, I might
have cut Nash because it feels out of place.

Competition Comment: Good formatting on
all entries.

Best Audio Journalism (Enrollment Division 1)

Place Name: First Place
Contestant Name: University of Chicago
Laboratory High School
Entry Title: Audio: Chicago music school
experiences boom in business
Entry Credit: Ari Novak
Judge Comment: In a tough faceoff, "School of
Rock" takes the prize with an edge in script
and presentation. Ari Novak's voice audio
quality could be better. Study up on mic and
voice techniques!

Place Name: Second Place
Contestant Name: University of Chicago
Laboratory High School
Entry Title: Audio: Band shares joy of music
with youngest Lab students in Halloween
parade
Entry Credit: Skye Freeman
Judge Comment: Solid reporting and
presentation! Skye Freeman's voice and
presentation could benefit from more polish.

Competition Comment: Both entries are solid
here! Students could benefit from better mic
and voice training.

Best Centerspread Story Package (Enrollment Division 1)

Place Name: First Place
Contestant Name: University of Chicago
Laboratory High School
Entry Title: Vol. 99, Issue 5 In-Depth: Freedom
Flare-up
Entry Credit: Audrey Park
Judge Comment: Gorgeous typography, good
use of color. A lot of content but looks very
organized. Powerful illustration. Pull quotes a
little too small to be effective, even with color
background.

Place Name: Second Place
Contestant Name: University of Chicago
Laboratory High School
Entry Title: Vol. 99, Issue 2 In-Depth:
Affirmative Apprehension
Entry Credit: Audrey Park
Judge Comment: Same positives as first-place
entry except this one not as organized. Spot
art in bottom pieces really doesn't contribute
anything; would have rather seen larger
quotes. Still overall good content. Key events
and vox pop both helpful for comprehension
of story.

Place Name: Third Place
Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
Entry Title: In the spotlight: Disney marks 100
years of magic
Entry Credit: Francesca Messerschmidt,
Sydney DeVous, Briley Lewis, Riley Mize
Judge Comment: Interesting concept and
content. Very nice use of white space makes
this package easy to navigate. Centerpiece art
well-executed and a good idea, but tiny
images are kind of wasted because of size
and cutout format. Also should really be
captioned in some way, somewhere.

Competition Comment: None

Best Editorial Cartoon (Enrollment Division 1)

Place Name: First Place
Contestant Name: University of Chicago
Laboratory High School
Entry Title: Election breach threatens student voice
Entry Credit: Eliza Dearing
Judge Comment: The image shows the victim of the breach is the student voter. The art thus emphasizes the high stakes discussed in the editorial. Sharo thinking.

Place Name: Second Place
Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
Entry Title: Picking a club can be overwhelming to some...
Entry Credit: Francesca Messerschmidt
Judge Comment: The art does a solid job of showing the confusion and pressure students face. It thus gives readers a reason reason to read the article -- to get advice and help.

Place Name: Third Place
Contestant Name: Herscher High School
Entry Title: Senior perspective
Entry Credit: Ally Doyle
Judge Comment: the art does a clever job showing the celebration and challenge presented by graduation. The image of the aftermath of thee celebration pull no punches -- it hints that the party is over.

Place Name: Honorable Mention
Contestant Name: University of Chicago
Laboratory High School
Entry Title: Safety changes emphasize distrust
Entry Credit: Eliza Dearing
Judge Comment: Like the editorial, the art challenges authority. It hints at how students view the school. That's good journalism.

Place Name: Honorable Mention
Contestant Name: Herscher High School
Entry Title: October
Entry Credit: Ally Doyle
Judge Comment: The art captures the spirits of the pro-con format of this opinion page.

Competition Comment: None

Best Feature Story (Enrollment Division 1)

Place Name: First Place
Contestant Name: DePaul College Prep High School
Entry Title: New BelEve Scholarship honors Eve Fries, Class of 2022
Entry Credit: Lucy Fries
Judge Comment: I really enjoyed the lead to this piece. Great play on words. I felt like I got to know Eve, and it evoked emotion knowing her legacy lives on. Well done.

Place Name: Second Place
Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
Entry Title: Hiding honky-tonk
Entry Credit: Audrey Park
Judge Comment: Great coverage on an ever-evolving topic. Informative, yet conversational enough to remain interesting.

Place Name: Third Place
Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
Entry Title: Fragrance fanatics: Trend sparks student interest in cologne
Entry Credit: Sahana Unni
Judge Comment: This was a fun piece. I enjoyed how the writer told us about a growing trend, but through the eyes of a teenager. Great work.

Place Name: Honorable Mention
Contestant Name: Bogan High School
Entry Title: Capturing the Horrors of Inhumanity Through Film and Literature
Entry Credit: Aaron Williams
Judge Comment: Well-written and a fresh take on the topic.

Place Name: Honorable Mention
Contestant Name: Herscher High School
Entry Title: So much more than a class
Entry Credit: Addy Whitaker
Judge Comment: This was an interesting topic that isn't written about enough. I enjoyed learning about the class and the impact it has on students!

Competition Comment: There is a great diversity in terms of topics and the ways students are approaching these stories. Great work by all!

Best Front-Page Design (Enrollment Division 1)

Place Name: First Place
Contestant Name: University of Chicago
Laboratory High School
Entry Title: Vol. 99, Issue 7, Feb. 22, 2024
Entry Credit: Mia Lipson
Judge Comment: Compelling front page that checks all the boxes: Teasers, strong main head, dominant visual, good use of color and typography. This is page that works hard to attract, engage and keep the reader moving through the issue.

Competition Comment: None

Place Name: Second Place
Contestant Name: University of Chicago
Laboratory High School
Entry Title: Vol. 98, Issue 21, June 1, 2023
Entry Credit: Mia Lipson
Judge Comment: Also nice, but a bit more conventional. Decision needed to be made about dominant art; use of two similar-sized photos not very effective.

Place Name: Third Place
Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
Entry Title: March 2024
Entry Credit: Francesca Messerschmidt, Avery Woolard
Judge Comment: Good use of white space in the Clarion fronts. Main/lead head is way too small; if you make it bigger then you can make the teasers larger and more legible.

Best Headline (Enrollment Division 1)

Place Name: First Place
Contestant Name: Okawville Jr/Sr High School
Entry Title: Clay Crushers Load for Season
Entry Credit: Laura Cook, Bennett Krohne
Judge Comment: None

Place Name: Second Place
Contestant Name: University of Chicago
Laboratory High School
Entry Title: Fragrance Fanatics: Trend
generates student interest in high-end
cologne
Entry Credit: Clare McRoberts, Katie
Sasamoto-Kurisu
Judge Comment: None

Place Name: Third Place
Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
Entry Title: Feel the Beat of student feet;
Students plan for Homecoming 2023
Entry Credit: Briley Lewis
Judge Comment: None

Place Name: Honorable Mention
Contestant Name: DePaul College Prep High
School
Entry Title: Inspired plexiglass pieces
encourage students to look at world through
new lens
Entry Credit: Avery Lakomy
Judge Comment: None

Competition Comment: Mostly strong entries
from a geographically diverse set of schools.
Tinkering with type can produce visually
vibrant headlines, or disrupt their coherence.
We saw examples of both. Sometimes artistic
judgment wins, and sometimes we suspect a
digital glitch. The more complex a layout, the
more need to check every item closely when
it is in a stable format. Knowing the
audience's culture allows a bull's-eye that
would be a near-miss elsewhere. Humor was
welcome even if other things derailed an
entry.

Best Humorous Commentary (Enrollment Division 1)

Place Name: First Place
Contestant Name: Herscher High School
Entry Title: Thomas and AI - Valentines
Entry Credit: Thomas Morgan
Judge Comment: The writer of both of these editorials chose topics that required creativity and knowledge of computer terminology. Fun to read.

Place Name: Second Place
Contestant Name: Herscher High School
Entry Title: Thomas and AI
Entry Credit: Thomas Morgan
Judge Comment: Clever format for an editorial and clever responses on AI's part.

Competition Comment: None

Best Illustration (Enrollment Division 1)

Place Name: First Place
Contestant Name: University of Chicago
Laboratory High School
Entry Title: Affirmative Apprehension
Entry Credit: Eliza Dearing
Judge Comment: Very powerful. The illustration expressed its opinion/stance very clearly.

Place Name: Second Place
Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
Entry Title: Path of Totality
Entry Credit: Francesca Messerschmidt
Judge Comment: Very informative. I liked that it was straightforward. Great illustration to include with a story on the eclipse.

Place Name: Third Place
Contestant Name: University of Chicago
Laboratory High School
Entry Title: Deceptive drama
Entry Credit: Sygne Stole
Judge Comment: Nice depiction of the mood people experiencing watching these shows.

Place Name: Honorable Mention
Contestant Name: Herscher High School
Entry Title: Herscher Highlights - October
Entry Credit: Ally Doyle
Judge Comment: Fun, engaging illustrations. I liked the 'Now you show up' one.

Place Name: Honorable Mention
Contestant Name: Herscher High School
Entry Title: Herscher Highlights - Valentines
Entry Credit: Ally Doyle
Judge Comment: Nice illustration - fun image of the couple chasing each other.

Competition Comment: None

Best In-Depth News Story (Enrollment Division 1)

Place Name: First Place
Contestant Name: University of Chicago
Laboratory High School
Entry Title: Students use Zyn nicotine
products, despite discouragement
Entry Credit: Audrey Park
Judge Comment: Excellent story Reporting
provides great sources and resources on a
controversial topic which is of student
interest.

Place Name: Second Place
Contestant Name: University of Chicago
Laboratory High School
Entry Title: Fact or fiction: Teens use social
media as news source, risks included
Entry Credit: Clare McRoberts
Judge Comment: Well reported story with
excellent sources. More data would help as
would some sources on news literacy.

Place Name: Honorable Mention
Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
Entry Title: Unit #3 School Board to shrink
spending, tighten budget
Entry Credit: Kylan Jerrell
Judge Comment: Good topic and generally
well reported. Additional sources would help
as would a look at neighboring school
districts.

Competition Comment: Winning stories not
only covered excellent topics, but were
highlighted by outstanding reporting,
excellent sources and examples. In-depth
stories need to have solid sources and
resources in addition to a strong breadth of
explanation about the topic.

Best Infographic (Enrollment Division 1)

Place Name: First Place
Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
Entry Title: Solar Eclipse
Entry Credit: Riley Mize
Judge Comment: Attractive graphics. The map is informative. The extra thick boxes around the text are a little to heavy. Not sure what the 4, 8 and 24 meant!

Place Name: Second Place
Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
Entry Title: Affirmative Apprehension (6 key events timeline)
Entry Credit: Audrey Park
Judge Comment: Nice, clean sidebar.

Place Name: Third Place
Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
Entry Title: Five to Try
Entry Credit: Chloë Alexander
Judge Comment: Nice, clean sidebar.

Place Name: Honorable Mention
Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
Entry Title: Budget Changes
Entry Credit: Francesca Messerschmidt
Judge Comment: None

Competition Comment: Nice job everyone. Difficult to pick a winner. I think it would help if the actual infographic you want judged is more clearly defined for the judges.

Best Multimedia Story Package (Enrollment Division 1)

Place Name: First Place
Contestant Name: University of Chicago
Laboratory High School
Entry Title: Balancing Act: A brotherly bond drives twin gymnasts Akshay and Kavan Puri to success
Entry Credit: William Tan, Matt Petres
Judge Comment: Very solid piece. Great descriptive language--you painted a picture with your words. Good video to accompany story. I would suggest turning your phone sideways to fill the screen with video and avoid the awkward black bars. Well done! I hope you keep writing and fine-tuning your journalistic craft!

Place Name: Second Place
Contestant Name: University of Chicago
Laboratory High School
Entry Title: Mocktail Mania: Fruity, fizzy drinks offer nonalcoholic, fun beverage option
Entry Credit: Clare McRoberts, Chloé Alexander, Jaya Alenghat, Olin Nafziger, Haley Maharry
Judge Comment: Good feature topic. Great descriptive language--a great read. Video was a great addition--added depth to your story. Nicely done. I hope you keep writing and fine-tuning your journalistic craft!

Place Name: Third Place
Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
Entry Title: Homecoming game to match Bulldogs with Marquette Catholic
Entry Credit: Riley Mize, Avery Woolard
Judge Comment: good article. nice interview with the coach. good to include the w/l record and an honest assessment of the season thus far. good photos. Nicely done. I hope you keep writing and fine-tuning your journalistic craft!

Place Name: Honorable Mention
Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
Entry Title: Gold Star riders bunk in Dog house
Entry Credit: Kennedy Borders
Judge Comment: Good topic to cover. Good information in article, however, the article is disjointed. need to provide bridges and link information better. Video was good would have been better if there was a voice over telling us about what was happening.

Competition Comment: None

Best News or Feature Photo (Enrollment Division 1)

Place Name: First Place
Contestant Name: University of Chicago
Laboratory High School
Entry Title: A community essential: Phillip
Raoul (main image)
Entry Credit: Eli Raikhe!
Judge Comment: Excellent environmental
portrait. Love the color, lighting, and
composition.

Place Name: Second Place
Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
Entry Title: Light Lab
Entry Credit: Leah Haugen
Judge Comment: Amazing light and color in
this image. Captivating.

Place Name: Third Place
Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
Entry Title: Allied Health Day
Entry Credit: Riley Mize
Judge Comment: Great job capturing this
event. Good, tight shot.

Place Name: Honorable Mention
Contestant Name: University of Chicago
Laboratory High School
Entry Title: Arm wrestling battle, (Photo 2)
Entry Credit: Alex Diamond
Judge Comment: Love the emotion and
energy that's captured here. Fun!

Competition Comment: None

Best News Story (Enrollment Division 1)

Place Name: First Place
Contestant Name: University of Chicago
Laboratory High School
Entry Title: Multiple thefts reported this
month
Entry Credit: Sahana Unni
Judge Comment: Well-written story about a
clearly important issue for the school
community. Nice lede. Great quotes and
details from authoritative sources. A great
example of "news you can use."

Place Name: Second Place
Contestant Name: University of Chicago
Laboratory High School
Entry Title: University bars land
acknowledgement statements
Entry Credit: Clare McRoberts
Judge Comment: A well-written story with
good details and quotes. However, your "at a
glance" segments are competing with the
main story for attention. They should be set
to the side and lower in the story so the
response from teachers and students is the
main focus.

Place Name: Third Place
Contestant Name: Herscher High School
Entry Title: Answering into the next year
Entry Credit: Brittany Wietting
Judge Comment: A good solid job. Nice lede!
Great quotes -- avoid leading with attribution
and stick to "said" for news stories.

Place Name: Honorable Mention
Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
Entry Title: Drake wins top theater award
Entry Credit: Sarah Girtman
Judge Comment: A generally well-written
story about a top honor at your school. Could
be improved with some tighter organization.
A great addition would have been a quote
from your principal on what it means for the
school to have a teacher with accolades like
this.

Competition Comment: These winners
demonstrated skillful writing and delivered
news stories that were truly relevant to their
school communities with strong input from
stakeholders.

Best Overall Design (Enrollment Division 1)

Place Name: First Place
Contestant Name: University of Chicago
Laboratory High School
Entry Title: Vol. 99, Issue 7, Feb. 22, 2024
Entry Credit: Audrey Park, Katie Sasamoto-
Kurusu, Sahana Unni, Mia Lipson, Clare
McRoberts, Victoria Washington, Chloé
Alexander, Jaya Alenghat, Zara Siddique, Light
Dohrn, Edward Park, Kabir Joshi, Skye
Freeman
Judge Comment: Multiple visual entry points
on each page. Screened sidebars boost visual
interest. Modular design achieved on all
pages. Body copy virtually free of widows,
orphans or bad text breaks. In-depth Biden
feature breaks down story into easy-to-digest
visual pieces. Everyday + Extraordinary
supplement a great stand-alone addition.

Place Name: Second Place
Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
Entry Title: March Edition
Entry Credit: Francesca Messerschmidt, Riley
Mize, Kylan Jerrell, Whittleigh Trusty, Gavinn
Swann, Leah Haugen, Avery Woolard,
Kennedy Borders, Bryleigh Lewis, Sydney
DeVos
Judge Comment: White space separation
among headlines, bylines and body copy
generally achieved. Body copy is tidy with few
widows, orphans or bad text breaks. Colored
screens on several pages boost visual
interest. Eclipse spread creates several visual
points of entry.

Competition Comment: None

Best Personality Profile (Enrollment Division 1)

Place Name: First Place
Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
Entry Title: Sewn together: Ki Kim and Yang Kim
Entry Credit: Skye Freeman
Judge Comment: his is a terrific profile of an important couple to the Hyde Park neighborhood. Beautiful use of multiple sources and storytelling through extensive interviews.

Place Name: Second Place
Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
Entry Title: Juggling Act: Senior works to explore passions with numerous roles in upcoming fall play
Entry Credit: Taariq Ahmed
Judge Comment: This is a well reported piece that shows the subject's vulnerabilities and talents. Strong use of quotations to convey depth of character.

Place Name: Third Place
Contestant Name: DePaul College Prep High School
Entry Title: Mr. Prosser: From Coca-Cola to the classroom
Entry Credit: Zoe Essex
Judge Comment: Beautifully targeted story for high school students wondering what their futures might be. It's great to see outside reporting.

Place Name: Honorable Mention
Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
Entry Title: Local broadcaster works his way up at WEBQ
Entry Credit: Francesca Messerschmidt
Judge Comment: The anecdotes in this profile are good, and the details and depth are strong.

Competition Comment: The range of profiles in this category is a delight. It's also gratifying to note the depth of outside reporting on some of these subjects and the skillful storytelling.

Best Photo Gallery/Photo Slideshow (Enrollment Division 1)

Place Name: First Place
 Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
 Entry Title: ArtsFest activities reflect students spirit, creativity
 Entry Credit: Taariq Ahmed, Chloë Alexander, Slye Freeman
 Judge Comment: Wow, this is truly superb photo storytelling. The variety of angles and perspectives is just magnificent. The composition in photo after photo is nearly flawless. The cutlines complement the images wonderfully. Just outstanding work all around.

Place Name: Second Place
 Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
 Entry Title: U-High celebrates community spirit in annual Homecoming assembly
 Entry Credit: Taariq Ahmed, Mia Lipson, Alex Diamond, Bryce Light, Olin Nafziger, Eli Raikhel
 Judge Comment: Another professional quality gallery. The photos give the viewer a clear and vivid sense of the event — the excitement, the fun, the feeling of community. The cutlines again complement the images well, providing details that make the photos come alive even more. Excellent work!

Place Name: Third Place
 Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
 Entry Title: Homecoming game to match Bulldogs with Marquette Catholic
 Entry Credit: Avery Woolard
 Judge Comment: The photos are well composed, but this could have finished higher if the gallery had told a more comprehensive story of the homecoming game. The gallery essentially stops at halftime. Here are a few ways that this could have been made into a first-place entry: 1) Start in the locker room with photos of the players getting ready. Why not also include some pregame shots of the cheerleaders, band members and fans? 2) During the game, show us players and coaches on the sideline, show us reaction shots of the fans, show us the cheerleaders in action, show us alums who have returned for the game. 3) During halftime, was there a homecoming court? If so, show us that. 4) Show us scenes from the second half — game action, sidelines, the stands. 5) Harrisburg won, correct? Show us the postgame celebration.

Place Name: Honorable Mention
 Contestant Name: Okawville Jr/Sr High School
 Entry Title: Veteran's Day Celebration
 Entry Credit: Justice Altenbaumer, Samantha Friess
 Judge Comment: The photos were average, but I gave this an honorable mention because the gallery made a solid effort to tell a story. Here are a few ways this could have been made into a higher-placing entry: 1) Provide captions for each photo giving us names and contextual information. 2) Get permission from the administration ahead of time to walk around during the event so you can get as close as possible to the people you are photographing. 3) Too many of the photos were taken from the same angle and perspective. The only way to make people talking at a lectern visually interesting is to take their photos from a variety of angles, perspectives and distances. Take closeups, extreme closeups, midrange shots and wide-angle establishing shots. 4) Position yourself behind the speaker and take photos of the audience looking at the speaker. 5) Take photos of audience members. Focus on their reactions. 6) Take photos of speakers waiting to speak or talking informally among themselves. 7) After the event, take photos of some of the veterans interacting with students. 8) Above all, strive for variety and try to capture emotion and feeling.

Competition Comment: The top two finishers were of professional quality. They embodied everything that makes a photo gallery outstanding. They each told a comprehensive story with images that brought their respective events to life, but they also complemented those images with cutlines/captions that added meaningful details. A good cutline doesn't simply restate in words what the viewer can already see. Instead, a good cutline adds information to an image, making the gallery as a whole richer, which the cutlines in the top two entries did extremely well. Those entries that didn't place were entries that didn't tell a story. For example, a gallery of photos of a girls basketball playoff game that cliched a trip to state had no cutlines and consisted primarily of action photos taken from the same angle and same perspective. Aside from a single pregame shot of someone (a teacher?) applying face paint to another person (another teacher?), there were no pregame photos, no sideline photos, no bleacher photos, no shots of players or fans reacting, no postgame celebration shots, no closeups, nothing that conveyed the emotions of the moment. You can't tell the story of winning such a big game without those kinds of images. There was potential in each of the entries that didn't place. My hope is that these comments provide the springboard to realizing the potential in future galleries. My final word of advice to all would be: Don't shy away from getting close to your subjects. Closeups — indeed extreme closeups — can produce some of the most powerful photos. Good luck to everyone on their future photo endeavors!

Best Photo Story (Enrollment Division 1)

Place Name: First Place
Contestant Name: University of Chicago
Laboratory High School
Entry Title: Vol. 98, Issue 21 Sports: Raw
reactions
Entry Credit: Zara Siddique, Sahana Unni
Judge Comment: Great collection of images
with lots of variety. Does an excellent job of
telling the story.

Place Name: Second Place
Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
Entry Title: Senior athletes
Entry Credit: Francesca Messerschmidt
Judge Comment: Good group shots, but
strays from the "photo story" category.

Competition Comment: None

Best Review (Enrollment Division 1)

Place Name: First Place
 Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
 Entry Title: Live-action anime series, 'One Piece,' exceeds expectations
 Entry Credit: Light Dohrn
 Judge Comment: Very well-written and readable article, especially for people with no prior knowledge of "One Piece."

Place Name: Second Place
 Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
 Entry Title: 'The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes' brings strong acting, flawed storytelling
 Entry Credit: Light Dohrn
 Judge Comment: Well written article with an expansive-but-effective vocabulary.

Place Name: Third Place
 Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
 Entry Title: HHS alumni to drop new single
 Entry Credit: Kylan Jerrell
 Judge Comment: Good writing but the article is unfocused, leaving the reader confused on which songs are the main topic of the review.

Place Name: Honorable Mention
 Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
 Entry Title: 'Five Nights at Freddy's' gives audiences terrifying Halloween
 Entry Credit: Francesca Messerschmidt
 Judge Comment: Good writing but would benefit from better transitions of ideas and minor proofreading.

Place Name: Honorable Mention
 Contestant Name: DePaul College Prep High School
 Entry Title: Review: Fall play "The Library" a major success
 Entry Credit: Avery Lakomy
 Judge Comment: The review is well written but overwhelmed by too much summary.

Competition Comment: Well-written all around with some instances of articles lacking focus.

Best Serious Commentary (Enrollment Division 1)

Place Name: First Place
 Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
 Entry Title: It's time to end legacy admissions
 Entry Credit: Clare McRoberts
 Judge Comment: Good sourcing and background. Timely topic and important to your school community, which you address right away. Of course, one of your points is that many legacy students are tracked into academically rigorous schools, so could possibly be accepted on their academic achievement anyway. But the piece asks for those who benefit to "sacrifice" the privilege. How would you like them to do that? Ideas?

Place Name: Second Place
 Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
 Entry Title: Teens are not helpless against human trafficking
 Entry Credit: Bryleigh Lewis
 Judge Comment: Good use of sourcing. Beside the fundraising, has your community done anything else to help raise awareness? Where would you go, for instance, to report suspicious activity? Has your school included the topic in its curriculum as your piece suggested or developed protocols? Maybe you could suggest something?

Place Name: Third Place
 Contestant Name: DePaul College Prep High School
 Entry Title: Should Fortnite have changed the original map?
 Entry Credit: Ivy Frater
 Judge Comment: You showed relevance by quoting students at your school. Nice overview and ending.

Place Name: Honorable Mention
 Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School Laboratory High School
 Entry Title: Stop honoring the dishonorable
 Entry Credit: Avery Woolard
 Judge Comment: Your frustration over honoring Columbus is clear. Give a bit of history/context as to why it is a national holiday. For instance, when did it become a holiday and what brought it to national attention? Perhaps compare it to other national holidays honoring men or women. And thinking locally, has your school community begun thinking of how to remember that history? Have the social studies teachers had any suggestions?

Place Name: Honorable Mention
 Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
 Entry Title: Mindy Kaling's depiction of Indian women isn't a step forward,
 Entry Credit: Sahana Unni
 Judge Comment: Well written and thoughtful examination from a specific perspective. Is there a non-Kaling character on tv now you feel is a better representation of Indian women? What would you like to see as personality traits in a young Indian character? (Her character on 'The Office' was also vapid and boy-crazy.)

Competition Comment: It's always best to see if your school community is affected or has opinions about this topic you choose. Teachers? Students? Community? The best stories did that. Timely topics with relevance are best for this category.

Best Single-Page Story Package (Enrollment Division 1)

Place Name: First Place
 Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
 Entry Title: Vol. 99, Issue 3 City Life: Emmett Till museum
 Entry Credit: Clare McRoberts
 Judge Comment:) First-rate story, photo and accompanying graphics for this terrific package on the Emmett Till home museum. Well-written and well-reported story along with a good selection of additional elements that add to the overall package. Excellent.

Place Name: Second Place
 Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
 Entry Title: Vol. 99, Issue 5 Arts: Hiding honky-tonk
 Entry Credit: Chloë Alexander, Audrey Park, Mia Lipson, Haley Maharry
 Judge Comment: interesting angle on this, as it details the reluctance of student fans of country music to "come out" to their friends – because of country music's perceived linkages with racism, conservative politics, anti-LGBTQ, etc. Nice work. I especially like the sidebar story offering country music for those who might not have yet tried it.

Place Name: Third Place
 Contestant Name: Herscher High School
 Entry Title: Herscher Highlights - October
 Entry Credit: Gianna Giacometti, Ayla Summers, Ally Doyle
 Judge Comment: Very nice, dominant graveyard drawing anchoring this Halloween collection. The trick-or-treating story is a good idea but could have a better-developed story line (instead of a collection of student comments). Nice history lesson in the second story, although some sources should be mentioned. Is there a credit line on the drawing? Be sure your artists get credit, as photographers and writers/reporters do.

Place Name: Honorable Mention
 Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
 Entry Title: Students, staff remember Steve Vinyard's impact
 Entry Credit: Sydney DeVous, Francesca Messerschmidt
 Judge Comment: Nice job gathering memories from so many students, teachers and staff. The photo of him is fabulous, and it would enhance the page to enlarge that photo (it seems to capture what a lot of folks say about him) to make it the focus of the page. The quotes around the story could be decreased in size to accommodate a larger version of the photo. One thing, as an outsider: I'd like to know a little bit more about his life (and death, for that matter). Perhaps there's another story touching on the news aspect elsewhere in the paper.

Competition Comment: The key to this category is this: The story, photos/artwork, headlines and graphics all work together, tied together by a dominant photo or illustration that is prominently displayed. Don't be afraid to go big with the main photo or illustration. A rule of thumb is that the dominant art on a page should be 20 percent of the available space (and no other photo/artwork should be more than half the size of the dominant one).
 Comments on other entries: Herscher: Same layout as the Halloween story package, but the quality of the artwork is not quite as vivid as the Halloween graveyard. Good story ideas. Bogan: Worthwhile story, and the Spanish translation also is a nice addition. But this category emphasizes story and design working together, and the design aspect is minimal. In a full-page story package, try for a dominant piece of artwork that will draw the reader's eye into the page. Harrisburg: good photos and good idea for this story – also a nice-sized graphic at bottom. Remember that ONE art element should dominate the page. Story and artwork well together.

Best Sports Commentary (Enrollment Division 1)

Place Name: First Place
Contestant Name: University of Chicago
Laboratory High School
Entry Title: A new White Sox stadium would be beneficial but nonessential
Entry Credit: Jaya Alenghat
Judge Comment: Excellent reporting to back up your opinion. Nice job.

Place Name: Second Place
Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
Entry Title: Win together, lose together
Entry Credit: Avery Woolard
Judge Comment: A well-written opinion piece highlighting student and community support.

Place Name: Third Place
Contestant Name: University of Chicago
Laboratory High School
Entry Title: Like their male counterparts, allow female athletes to display emotion during competitions
Entry Credit: Victoria Washington
Judge Comment: A strong opinion piece backed by solid reporting.

Place Name: Honorable Mention
Contestant Name: Herscher High School
Entry Title: Play of the Month
Entry Credit: Tyler Bayston
Judge Comment: A fun opinion article.

Competition Comment: None

Best Sports Feature Story (Enrollment Division 1)

Place Name: First Place
Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
Entry Title: Coaching with care: Tyrone Mason
Entry Credit: Jaya Alenghat
Judge Comment: Solid profile of a local supporter of student athletes. Good use of quotes helps reveal his personality. Well written.

Place Name: Second Place
Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
Entry Title: Muslim student athletes navigate fasting during Ramadan while maintaining physical endurance
Entry Credit: Jaya Alenghat
Judge Comment: Interesting insight into high school sports from a Muslim perspective. Stories like this foster tolerance and understanding. Effective use of quotes.

Place Name: Third Place
Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
Entry Title: Alumni skate into new experiences
Entry Credit: Francesca Messerschmidt
Judge Comment: Fun piece about an unusual sport using alumni as the primary sources. Well written. Good quotes. It made me want to know more about the players.

Competition Comment: None

Best Sports News Story (Enrollment Division 1)

Place Name: First Place
Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
Entry Title: 7 seniors commit to play college athletics in community event
Entry Credit: Taariq Ahmed
Judge Comment: Nice job highlighting how special the event was through the eyes of an athlete who committed and through the director's quote. An additional perspective from one of the other student-athletes would've been a good addition but still a nice job overall.

Place Name: Second Place
Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
Entry Title: Baseball season opens with win 894
Entry Credit: Leah Haugen
Judge Comment: Compelling headline that made me want to know what the story was about. Nice job talking about Coach Thompson's growth and how that changed his coaching style. I would've liked to see how Thompson is viewed by a couple of the players on the team.

Place Name: Third Place
Contestant Name: DePaul College Prep High School
Entry Title: DePaul Prep boys basketball prepares for first season since State title
Entry Credit: Katherine Tentler
Judge Comment: Nice job providing informative details for readers while also using some colorful quotes from the coach. I wondered how the players felt about having an added focus on the team coming into the new season as they look to repeat as state champions?

Competition Comment: A nice blend of stories detailing personal achievement, feel good moments for student-athletes and detailed information for an upcoming season.

Best Sports Photo (Enrollment Division 1)

Place Name: First Place
Contestant Name: University of Chicago
Laboratory High School
Entry Title: One-run loss ends baseball
season,
Entry Credit: Matthew McGehee
Judge Comment: Great shallow depth of field
pitcher shot capturing the intensity.

Place Name: Second Place
Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
Entry Title: Wrestling (Screen 2; bottom left)
Entry Credit: Riley Mize
Judge Comment: Nice tight close up of the
action.

Place Name: Third Place
Contestant Name: University of Chicago
Laboratory High School
Entry Title: Gallery: Winter sports in review
(Photo 3: Boys basketball)
Entry Credit: Ellis Calleri
Judge Comment: Good framing, exposure and
timing capturing the action.

Place Name: Honorable Mention
Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
Entry Title: Competition cheer is back on the
mat
Entry Credit: Avery Woolard
Judge Comment: Dramatic shot
communicating the height (and danger) of the
activity.

Competition Comment: None

Best Staff Editorial (Enrollment Division 1)

Place Name: First Place

Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
Entry Title: After alarm, attitude must change
Entry Credit: Mia Lipson
Judge Comment: Great job writing about a specific incident on campus that impacted students. Well-written and thoughtful, including the ways you urge leadership to take action.

Place Name: Second Place

Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
Entry Title: Election breach threatens student voice
Entry Credit: Clare McRoberts
Judge Comment: Great job with this. This hits at a specific issue on your campus thoughtfully and thoroughly raising both action items for administrators and food for thought for students.

Place Name: Third Place

Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
Entry Title: College and Career Center gives individual help to students
Entry Credit: Francesca Messerschmidt
Judge Comment: Great job writing about something specific to student needs! In the future, you don't necessarily need a quote from someone for something like this. Use interviews to inform your opinion, but be sure to keep editorials solely in your voice.

Place Name: Honorable Mention

Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
Entry Title: Students find varied benefits by participating in co-curricular school activities
Entry Credit: Francesca Messerschmidt
Judge Comment: Nice job speaking to the importance of participating in extra curricular activities. A few typos.

Place Name: Honorable Mention

Contestant Name: Herscher High School
Entry Title: Senior perspective
Entry Credit: Allie Decman, Mary Kanak
Judge Comment: Appreciate the opportunity to hear your perspectives! For the future, editorials are typically supposed to be unsigned opinion articles from the entire staff or editors rather than two opposing op-eds.

Competition Comment: Some phenomenal entries! I appreciate the chance to read about the issues that matter to you. The best editorials are ones that speak to specific issues at your school impacting you, the students. Keep that in mind when deciding on what to write about in the future.

Best Use of Social Media (Enrollment Division 1)

Place Name: First Place
Contestant Name: University of Chicago
Laboratory High School
Entry Title: U-High Midway Instagram
Entry Credit: Skye Freeman
Judge Comment: Great variety of content and
consistent branding!

Place Name: Second Place
Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
Entry Title: Job Fair
Entry Credit: Leah Haugen, Kylan Jerrell
Judge Comment: None

Competition Comment: None

Best Video Story (Enrollment Division 1)

Place Name: First Place
Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
Entry Title: Video: Taylor Swift fans unite over clothing, bracelets and songs
Entry Credit: Clare McRoberts
Judge Comment: Very impressive video! The turnaround appears to have been extremely quick, so a lot of planning must have gone into coordinating the collection of video clips from the various concert-goers. Great use of B-roll footage from both inside and outside Soldier Field. Good use of photos as well. The interview soundbites were fun and provided fascinating insights into the world of Taylor Swift fandom. Although the video didn't make the analogy, I couldn't help but compare the Swifties of today to the Deadheads of old, and I mean that in the most complimentary way possible. It's really great to see how music is still able to bring people together in a shared cultural experience. Loved the end credits and the narration. A stand-up by the narrator (maybe at Soldier Field?) at the beginning and end of the video would have been nice but certainly not essential. A few suggestions on how this could have been even better: (1) Speakers were identified by name only. Adding their grade at U-High would have enhanced the IDs. (2) The audio volume was uneven at times. A bit of fine-tuning of the levels would fix that. (3) When one of the students talked about friendship bracelets, she was on screen for a relatively long time. This could have been broken up with some closeup B-roll shots of concert-goers displaying their bracelets. (4) At 00:48, three students mention which albums inspired their outfits for the concert. The respective album covers are shown for a split second each. That's way too fast. You could slow things down by stopping the A-roll clip whenever an album is mentioned and showing the cover for maybe two seconds before going back to the A-roll. (5) As I said, I loved the end credits, but I think "Title" is a default title, right? And we need a space at the end between "Music" and "(under Creative Commons license)." But I don't want to diminish the accomplishment here. This video is really good, and the students responsible for it should be extremely proud of their work. Nicely done!

Place Name: Second Place
Contestant Name: University of Chicago Laboratory High School
Entry Title: New club provides outlet for musicians, gives back to community
Entry Credit: Haley Maharry
Judge Comment: There's a lot of potential here, but this is really a first cut rather than a final cut. With the existing footage and some tight editing, this could have been a fast-moving and informative 1:30-1:45 video. But at more than three minutes, this really drags. There's not enough B-roll to make this visually interesting, and the audio quality is poor. The biggest need here is for more and better B-roll. We need to see and hear these musicians in action. I wanted to see and hear the club president perform. I didn't need extended scenes of kids sitting and talking during a meeting. The opening few seconds were rather baffling. A better way to start would have been a closeup of the club president performing a piece on his violin in media res, perhaps with a few club members gathered nearby watching. The footage of Andrew ji was good, but it needed to be supplemented by so much more. The student interviews were fine but lengthy. A few brief comments from the club's adviser(s) would also have enriched the video. Again, lots of potential here. A really good follow-up could be produced that focused on one of the club's performances in the community.

Competition Comment: Only two entries here, and the gap in quality between the first- and second-place winners was significant. I hope the students involved in producing the Taylor Swift video continue to make videos; they have real talent. I hope the students involved in the club video keep on developing their skills and don't get discouraged. They have real talent as well; they just need to refine their visual storytelling techniques. The old maxim in writing of "Revise, revise, revise" applies to video as well. Keep on creating!

Best Website (Enrollment Division 1)

Place Name: First Place
Contestant Name: University of Chicago
Laboratory High School
Entry Title: uhighmidway.com
Entry Credit: Audrey Park, Katie Sasamoto-Kurusu, Sahana Unni, Taariq Ahmed
Judge Comment: I really love the graphics you use for some of the featured stories you have on the carousel on the front page; those are such a great way to make the story look better on the web when you don't really have a photo that will completely work. Which, speaking of, the photos on the site are also great! The email sign up sheet is really cool, and the opinion section toward the bottom of the homepage looks great as well! I love the uniform graphics for the writers. All around great job!

Place Name: Second Place
Contestant Name: Harrisburg High School
Entry Title: The Purple Clarion
Entry Credit: Francesca Messerschmidt, Riley Mize, Kylan Jerrell, Avery Woolard, Gavinn Swann, Kennedy Borders, Leah Haugen, Whittleigh Trusty, Bryleigh Lewis, Sydney DeVous
Judge Comment: Great work! Your homepage looks very clean and isn't too cluttered but still shows the wide variety of content you have available on the site. The graphics/photos you have look great as well! Only piece of advice I have is to consider changing the way the flipbook appears on the home page. In my experience, it's usually better to have the web-focused content be front-and-center, and then have the digital edition of the publication available on a separate page. This way, if people want to see the digital edition, they still can but the website still gears more toward the web-formatted content. Great website!

Place Name: Third Place
Contestant Name: Okawville Jr/Sr High School
Entry Title: Launch Pad
Entry Credit: Adysen Harre, Laura Cook
Judge Comment: Great work! I love the little boxes on the homepage with the more interactive content (like the poll) and the board that shows past scores from sports games is really cool! One thing I would recommend is to make sure that all stories are being posted with an image, even if it's just a stock image. Certain pages of the website (like the news page) look really text-heavy, and I think more images would break that up a bit more. Other than great, great job!

Competition Comment: None