

Woman's Press Club of Indiana High School Journalism Contest 2024

Information from contest coordinator Elizabeth Granger
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Note: First-place entries in all categories have gone on to the national competition with the National Federation of Press Women. Results from NFPW will be made public later this spring.

National winners will be invited to the NFPW convention in St. Louis in June.

EDITORIAL:

1st place:

Natalie Walker
Southport High School, Indianapolis
"Journal Address: Sept. 1, 2023"
Adviser: Michael Klopfenstein
From the judge: *By holding the administration accountable, you share a very important message about how rules and regulations seem to be afterthought in this situation. Well done!*

2nd place:

Ayaan Nadeem
Carmel High School, Carmel
"CHS should give Muslim students a prayer space"
Adviser: Jim Streisel

3rd place:

Addi Bussell
Noblesville High School, Noblesville
"When I grow up"
Adviser: Joe Akers

Honorable mention:

Lucy Len Dim
Southport High School, Indianapolis
"Embracing Solitude"
Adviser: Michael Klopfenstein

Honorable mention:

Zoe Harris
Ben Davis High School, Indianapolis
"How is spirit at BD?"
Adviser: Tom Hayes

OPINION:

1st place:

Jasmine Zhang
Carmel High School, Carmel
"Time spent together should be cherished, spent offline"
Adviser: Jim Streisel
From the judge: *The quick little story as the lede was refreshing and engaging. The writer had the reader hooked from the start. The following claims were all*

supported and argued well enough that the reader felt swayed. The writing was clear and followed AP Style.

2nd place:

Evelyn Foster
Carmel High School, Carmel
“FIDE’s ban on transgender women playing in women’s brackets helps nothing”
Adviser: Jim Streisel

3rd place:

Emma Hu
Carmel High School, Carmel
“Women should leave movies like ‘Mean Girls’ in the past...”
Adviser: Jim Streisel

Honorable mention:

Ayslin Bowman
Southport High School, Indianapolis
“She’s everything. So is Ken.”
Adviser: Michael Klopfenstein

NEWS STORY:

1st place:

Liliana Perez, Addison Ginther, Charlotte Miksha
Hamilton Southeastern High School, Fishers
“Threads of Conflict: Stories Within”
Adviser: David Young

From the judge: *Great job. An important, emotional, relevant and personal topic -- gripping comments. While there wasn't a comment from someone supporting Israel's side of the war, I think the background on the history of both and the comments from the person about being friends with both Palestinians and Israelis help balance it out.*

2nd place:

Emma Hu, Jasmine Zhang
Carmel High School, Carmel
“Young voters excited to vote, select new Carmel mayor”
Adviser: Jim Streisel

3rd place:

Anna Egleson, Max Habel
Noblesville High School, Noblesville
“Mural with a Message”
Adviser: Joe Akers

Honorable mention:

Anthony Pho
Carmel High School, Carmel
“Students, administrators consider effects of the PSAT’s format changes, transition to digital setting”
Adviser: Jim Streisel

FEATURE STORY:

1st place:

Claire Steinbrook
Southport High School, Indianapolis
“Legacy of Love”
Adviser: Michael Klopfenstein

From the judge: *Excellent lede! You set up a contradiction (confident plans that will go differently in the future) that makes the reader want to find out what happens. Drawing the reader in at the lede is so important; otherwise, they skip your story. Your lede drew in the reader—and the reader was not disappointed!*

The story of Dudas, his wife and the two boys is amazing in and of itself. But not everyone is a good storyteller. Fortunately, you are! You did an excellent job telling their story: giving just the right amount of detail to inform the reader without bogging them down, interspersing good quotes from both Dudas and Harris that helped with the telling and momentum of the story, consistent pacing. The close was good as well, tying a nice, neat bow to end the story. This feature was a compelling story compellingly told. You have a gift, and I hope you find a way to continue using it in your future!

2nd place: Santi Leon Torres, McKenzie Vitale
Noblesville High School, Noblesville
“A Quiet Place”
Adviser: Joe Akers

2nd place: Lucy Len Dim
Southport High School, Indianapolis
“A Growing Force”
Adviser: Michael Klopfenstein

2nd place: Mahitha Konjeti, Jasmine Zhang
Carmel High School, Carmel
“With trade school enrollment rising, work-based learning coordinator, students work to combat stigma”
Adviser: Jim Klopfenstein

2nd place: Kennedy Ulmer, Hannah VanLandingham, Aubrey Matasovsky
Hamilton Southeastern High School, Fishers
“From Classroom to Career”
Adviser: David Young

2nd place: Harjas Kaur
Southport High School, Indianapolis
“Walpole’s Way”
Adviser: Michael Klopfenstein

2nd place: Lorna Ding, Pahal Sehgal
Carmel High School, Carmel
“Open, respectful discussion...”
Adviser: Jim Streisel

3rd place: Elisabeth Pointer
Southport High School, Indianapolis
“Friends from Afar”
Adviser: Michael Klopfenstein

3rd place: Logan Murray
Hamilton Southeastern High School, Fishers
“Artists Unmasked”
Adviser: David Young

3rd place: Thang Khai
Southport High School, Indianapolis
“Channeling Success”
Adviser: Michael Klopfenstein

3rd place: Mahitha Konjeti
Carmel High School, Carmel
“In light of Ethnic Food Month, lunch staff, students discuss consequences of ethnic food shaming”

Adviser: Jim Streisel

Honorable mention: Heather McQuinn, McKenzie Vitale
Noblesville High School, Noblesville
“The Man Behind the Cube”

Adviser: Joe Akers

Honorable mention: Morgan Trowbridge
Noblesville High School, Noblesville
“A Honey Harvest”

Adviser: Joe Akers

Honorable mention: Salem Ortega-Morales
Southport High School, Indianapolis
“Started from a Sprout”

Adviser: Michael Klopfenstein

Honorable mention: Simran Baidwan
Southport High School, Indianapolis
“Regaining the Connection”

Adviser: Michael Klopfenstein

Honorable mention: Lucas Allison
Ben Davis High School, Indianapolis
“Drive-ins offer good family fun”

Adviser: Tom Hayes

Honorable mention: Danielle Shumar
Ben Davis High School, Indianapolis
“Voices of our Generation”

Adviser: Tom Hayes

SPORTS STORY:

1st place:

Ryan Sharp
Carmel High School, Carmel
“Women’s hockey players continue to navigate male-dominated sport”

Adviser: Jim Streisel

From the judge: *A very well researched and insightful article. I was especially struck by the challenges the girls face about not being able to use the locker rooms with the guys (which makes sense), instead having to use a closet or a bathroom where people frequently walk in on them. Nice work!*

2nd place:

Ryan Sharp
Carmel High School, Carmel
“In light of the Cricket World Cup, students and parents discuss cricket’s role in South Asian culture”

Adviser: Jim Streisel

3rd place:

Cate Hall
Noblesville High School, Noblesville
“You Wrestle Like a Girl”

Adviser: Joe Akers

Honorable mention: Lucy Hiller
Southport High School, Indianapolis
“A win worth the wait”

Adviser: Michael Klopfenstein

Honorable mention: Brooklyn Sharp
Ben Davis High School, Indianapolis
“The Thrill of the Dunk”
Adviser: Tom Hayes

Honorable mention: Claire Steinbrook
Southport High School, Indianapolis
“Love’-ing her place”
Adviser: Michael Klopfenstein

COLUMNS/BLOGS:

1st place: Ava Campbell
Southport High School, Indianapolis
“Run with it”
Adviser: Michael Klopfenstein
From the judge: *A well-written, timely call to action to support women’s sports. The good use of attendance stats adds helpful perspective.*

2nd place: Grace Guo
Carmel High School, Carmel
“Postcards from MUSE: Adventures of a Not-so-Adventurous National Park Visitor”
Adviser: Jim Streisel

3rd place: Mansi Indarapu
Carmel High School, Carmel
“New Marvel movies are better than old ones”
Adviser: Jim Streisel

Honorable mention: Ayaan Nadeem
Carmel High School, Carmel
“The Ramadan Diaries: Week 1”
Adviser: Jim Streisel

REVIEW:

1st place: Lucas Allison
Ben Davis High School, Indianapolis
“‘Dune’ is more than a sci-fi novel”
Adviser: Tom Hayes
From the judge: *The story begins with a unique but catchy lede. The author gives enough background to the story that the reader is able to really understand the article. The writer does a good amount of comparing and contrasting and giving an opinion on choices made in the movie. All of the claims in the story are supported through parts of the film. Good job.*

2nd place: Lucas Allison
Ben Davis High School, Indianapolis
“Scorsese’s latest is worth the time”
Adviser: Tom Hayes

3rd place: Evelyn Foster

Carmel High School, Carmel
"Review: 'A Haunting in Venice' is a significant improvement from other Agatha Christie adaptations"

3rd place:

Adviser: Jim Streisel
Helena Wang
Carmel High School, Carmel
"Review: 'Ladybug & Cat Noir: The Movie' departure from original show"
Adviser: Jim Streisel

Honorable mention:

Mahitha Konjeti
Carmel High School, Carmel
"Review: Gossip Girl' intrigue, iconography and cultural prevalence solidify it as the best teen drama of all time"
Adviser: Jim Streisel

NEWS/FEATURE PHOTO:

1st place:

Mahitha Konjeti
Carmel High School, Carmel
"Hispanic Heritage"
Adviser: Jim Streisel
From the judge: *This image of Martina Queijo dancing stood out from the other entries in this category. The photographer captured a natural emotion, as the dancer's face shows that she's having fun, and captured the dancer at a peak moment. The image shows that the shooter knows how to use the settings on a camera and freeze action so that the image is sharp. She's also not afraid to use a flash when the ambient light is not ideal. The photo matches up with the story perfectly, and I love the quote in the caption. Great work!*

2nd place:

Nora Mariano
Carmel High School, Carmel
"Festival of Ice"
Adviser: Jim Streisel

Honorable mention:

Mansi Indarapu
Carmel High School, Carmel
"Little Women"
Adviser: Jim Streisel

SPORTS PHOTO:

1st place:

Jayla Jackson
Ben Davis High School, Indianapolis
"Two Points"
Adviser: Tom Hayes
From the judge: *Awesome timing, good framing. That would be a solid photo for any newspaper.*

2nd place:

Darcy Leber
Southport High School, Indianapolis
"Order on the Court"
Adviser: Michael Klopfenstein

Honorable mention: Chase Thorpe
Carmel High School, Carmel
"Homecoming Reaction"
Adviser: Jim Streisel

CARTOONING:

1st place: Megan Xia
Carmel High School, Indianapolis
"Phones at Concerts"
Adviser: Jim Streisel
From the judge: *The setup and punchline for this comic pay off. Good work.*

GRAPHICS/PHOTO ILLUSTRATION:

1st place: Leying Yang
Carmel High School, Carmel
"On Ice!"
Adviser: Jim Streisel
From the judge: *The illustration work and layout design of the infographic are commendable. The integration of elements such as the background resembling an ice rink and the path of a skater adds depth and visual interest without detracting from the foreground information. This thoughtful approach creates a cohesive and engaging visual experience for the viewer.*

2nd place: Lynden Johnson
Ben Davis High School, Indianapolis
"Music: The Gift that Keeps on Giving"
Adviser: Tom Hayes

Honorable mention: Kent Fujita, Grace Guo, Alan Huang, Caroline Just, Jane Martens, Ayaan Nadeem, Arjun Purchit
Carmel High School, Carmel
"Up & At 'Em"
Adviser: Jim Streisel

Honorable mention: Grace Guo, Ethan Blastick, Avery Carlisle, Caroline Just, Ayaan Nadeem, Lydia Teeter
Carmel High School, Carmel
"Get Lit"
Adviser: Jim Streisel

SINGLE-PAGE LAYOUT:

1st place: Lauren Kipka
Hamilton Southeastern High School, Fishers
"Censored"
Adviser: David Young
From the judge: *This is not just a good layout; it is a great -- truly great -- layout. Whoever did this has tremendous potential if this is what they can produce in high school -- this could compete with some professional designs. The concept is simple and timely. The large "Censored" image jumps out at you, crackled just as a crude stamp would be. After a moment of looking at how crisp it is, the reader*

notices the subtle detail of the books whose covers have actually been censored. The contrast between that simple, almost invisible detail, and the loud, blaring word conveys to the reader what this issue is about: very loud voices demanding very quiet omissions from libraries. Balanced, clean, effective, and pretty near perfect.

2nd place:

Lucy Hiller
Southport High School, Indianapolis
"Born to be a Boiler"
Adviser: Michael Klopfenstein

3rd place:

Liliana Perez
Hamilton Southeastern High School, Fishers
"We do not want wars"
Adviser: David Young

Honorable mention:

Addison Ginther, Maddy Page, Kennedy Ulmer
Hamilton Southeastern High School, Fishers
"It's what's on the inside that counts"
Adviser: David Young

DOUBLE-TRUCK LAYOUT:

1st place:

Azalea Bennett-Orsini
Homestead High School, Fort Wayne
"The Most Meaningless Color?"
Adviser: Catherine Crupi

From the judge: *This is great, great design. As close to perfect as it comes. Among the things that make it work: the gumballs wonderfully cut out and given a drop shadow onto a textured background; the exclusive use of red, gray and black (from the photos to the text); the quirky font of the headlines and sub-headlines; the remarkable way that a clever border on the headline makes it somehow easily readable; the overall simplicity and unobtrusiveness of the design elements; and, of course, the myriad of floating logos stuck inside an empty gumball machine. This works very well with the written content -- even the headline makes you wonder what the story could be about while the graphics make you think "this is worth checking out." I can't help but read the story (which is very well written) when I'm supposed to be focused on the design -- but that is exactly what good design is supposed to do.*

2nd place:

Caitlin Follman, Roman Gralak, Grace Guo, Caroline Just, Jane Martens, Ayaan Nadeem, Lydia Teeter, Helena Wang, Ryan Zhang
Carmel High School, Carmel
"Park It"
Adviser: Jim Streisel

3rd place:

Grace Wilson
Southport High School, Indianapolis
"Theater takeover"
Adviser: Michael Klopfenstein

Honorable mention:

Ayslin Bowman
Southport High School, Indianapolis
"A gradual increase"
Adviser: Michael Klopfenstein

Honorable mention: Avery Carlisle, Caitlin Follman, Roman Gralak, Caroline Just, Keira Kress, Helena Wang, Ryan Zhang
Carmel High School, Carmel
“Striking Out”
Adviser: Jim Streisel

ENVIRONMENT:

1st place: Avery Carlisle, Helena Wang
Carmel High School, Carmel
“This world is on fire”
Adviser: Jim Streisel
From the judge: *Yes!*
Wildfires? Not a big problem in Indiana, but definitely in other parts of the country.
That these journalists look at the far-away issues through the eyes of locals - very local, in their school - to write about the problem is a huge plus. Both students and faculty are included in the story. So, too, are local remedies that start small but can bring about a big change.
Nice work.

RADIO OR PODCAST PREPARED REPORT:

Honorable mention: Collin Myers
Columbia City High School, Columbia City
Unleashing intelligence “Fear & Hope of AI”
Adviser: Jordan Glaza

RADIO/TELEVISION INTERVIEW OR TALK SHOW:

3rd place: Alijah Ennis, Garrett Burkle
Ben Davis High School, Indianapolis
“Ben Davis football”
Adviser: Tom Hayes

Honorable mention: Zeek Urrutia, Collin Myers, Braden Kreischer, Steven Boyd
Columbia City High School, Columbia City
“Film Fanatics: Is ‘Five Nights at Freddy’s’ worth it?”
Adviser: Jordan Glaza

Honorable mention: Lauren Harden, Kameron Anthony, Trey Williams
Hamilton Southeastern High School, Fishers
“SSN Show: Sept. 15, 2023”
Adviser: David Young

Honorable mention: Lauren Harden
Hamilton Southeastern High School, Fishers
“SSN Show: Nov. 1, 2023”
Adviser: David Young

Honorable mention: Lauren Harden
Hamilton Southeastern High School, Fishers
“SSN Show: Dec. 7, 2023”
Adviser: David Young

BEST NEWSCAST:

- 1st place:** HSETV Staff
Hamilton Southeastern High School, Fishers
"HSETV Royal Rundown: Nov. 9, 2023"
Adviser: David Young
From the judge: *Amazing job! Good use of graphics and very nice engaging segment with "30 seconds."*
- 2nd place:** NHS News Staff
Noblesville High School, Noblesville
"Around the County: Nov. 8, 2023"
Adviser: Joe Akers
- 3rd place:** NHS News Staff
Noblesville High School, Noblesville
"Around the County: June 2, 2023"
Adviser: Joe Akers
- Honorable mention:** Katlynn Asbury
Jennings County High School, North Vernon
"Jennings County"
Adviser: Jeff Green

VIDEO FEATURE STORY:

- 1st place:** Tessa Green
Hamilton Southeastern High School, Fishers
"HSE Homecoming Recap"
Adviser: David Young
From the judge: *Wow, just wow! Superb production. Absolutely seamless in all aspects, from professional video work to surgically tight visual syncopation - the various video clips married seamlessly with the accompanying music. Bravo for crafting a truly professional video!*
- 2nd place:** Jack Gigante, Eryn McMahon, McKenzie Vitale
Noblesville High School, Noblesville
"It's Not Such a Dirty Job"
Adviser: Joe Akers
- 2nd place:** Jack Gigante, Eryn McMahon, McKenzie Vitale
Noblesville High School, Noblesville
"Evie the Excellent"
Adviser: Joe Akers
- 3rd place:** Addie McMillan, Andie Zelaya
Noblesville High School, Noblesville
"Donuts on Wheels"
Adviser: Joe Akers
- Honorable mention:** Chloe Bass, Aubrey Griffin
Noblesville High School, Noblesville
"Let your heart be light"
Adviser: Joe Akers

VIDEO SPORTS STORY:

- 1st place:** Max Arnold, Gabe Fryling
Noblesville High School, Noblesville
"The Mystery Mascot"
Adviser: Joe Akers
From the judge: *This entry checks all the boxes: well-produced, and the story is told in a good way. It has a fun introduction to the subject (who had a fun story about getting around being grounded, so good job taking advantage of that). From there, there are just enough interviews to get the other side of the story without taking away from the subject and the feature. From a technical side, the work is well done, whether that be 'b-roll' with fans or in the hallways or the places where interviews were shot.*
- 2nd place:** Gabrielle Morin
Jennings County Schools, North Vernon
"The Comeback: Alivia Elmore"
Adviser: Jeff Green
- 3rd place:** Tessa Green
Hamilton Southeastern High School, Fishers
"Recognizing Wrestling"
Adviser: David Young
- 3rd place:** Max Arnold, Adam Colbart
Noblesville High School, Noblesville
"Pass to Kass"
Adviser: Joe Akers
- Honorable mention:** Dana Behlmer, Caidey Swart
Noblesville High School, Noblesville
"Cheering Together"
Adviser: Joe Akers

YEARBOOK PHOTO:

- 1st place:** Emma Pearce
Noblesville High School, Noblesville
"A blue-tiful show"
Adviser: Samantha Deane
From the judge: *Love this photo. Unique and interesting. I like the tight crop. Good reaction shot.*
- 2nd place:** Kara Bennett
Noblesville High School, Noblesville
"Autumn"
Adviser: Samantha Deane
- 2nd place:** Emma Pearce
Noblesville High School, Noblesville
"And we're rolling"
Adviser: Samantha Deane
- 3rd place:** Maddy Page
Hamilton Southeastern High School, Fishers
"Blue Crew"
Adviser: David Young

Honorable mention: Taylor Mancil
Ben Davis High School, Indianapolis
“Now It’s Possible”
Adviser: Tom Hayes

Honorable mention: Kadin Bright
Noblesville High School, Noblesville
“Trot like a Turkey”
Adviser: Samantha Deane

Honorable mention: Addi Emmerson
Noblesville High School, Noblesville
“Order on the Court”
Adviser: Samantha Deane

YEARBOOK LAYOUT:

1st place: Grace Holler, Kimberly Bustos-Hernandez
Ben Davis High School, Indianapolis
“A Night to Remember”
Adviser: Tom Hayes

2nd place: **From the judge:** *Layout has just right sized pictures, action, article, and captions.*
Grace Holler, Kimberly Bustos-Hernandez
Ben Davis High School, Indianapolis
“Open Mic Makes a Comeback”
Adviser: Tom Hayes

3rd place: Emma Pearce
Noblesville High School, Noblesville
“Running in Circles”
Adviser: Samantha Deane

Honorable mention: Emma Pearce
Noblesville High School, Noblesville
“Broadcast Hoosier Star”
Adviser: Samantha Deane

YEARBOOK COPYWRITING:

1st place: Abigail Kepler
Hamilton Southeastern High School, Fishers
“Finding Meaning Behind Creation”
Adviser: David Young

From the judge: *Love the scene-setter lead. Good job breaking up quotes with “so-and-so said.” Good job getting three sources.*

2nd place: Addi Emmerson
Noblesville High School, Noblesville
“And We’re Rolling”
Adviser: Samantha Deane

2nd place: Jaelyn Snell
Noblesville High School, Noblesville
“Seeing Double”
Adviser: Samantha Deane

2nd place: Grace Holler, Mary Oswigo, Kimberly Bustos-Hernandez
Ben Davis School, Indianapolis
“What a Day”
Adviser: Tom Hayes

3rd place: Landon Denison
Noblesville High School, Noblesville
“Freshman Abby Moyer”
Adviser: Samantha Deane

3rd place: Emma Pearce
Noblesville High School, Noblesville
“Moving Forward”
Adviser: Samantha Deane

Honorable mention: Emma Pearce
Noblesville High School, Noblesville
“Flags Up”
Adviser: Samantha Deane

Honorable mention: Grace Holler, Kimberly Bustos-Hernandez
Ben Davis High School, Indianapolis
“Now It’s Possible”
Adviser: Tom Hayes

Honorable mention: Lily Pooser
Noblesville High School, Noblesville
“Hiking Through Thailand”
Adviser: Samantha Deane