

NIPA High School Newspaper & Yearbook Contest Guidelines April 30-May 1, 2006 University of North Dakota, Grand Forks

In the contest, students may enter work in one of these categories: Editorial, Opinion, News, Feature, Sports, Column, Feature Photo, Sports Photo, Cartooning, Reviews, Graphics and Single Page Layout. Awards in each category are plaques for first, second and third place; and certificates for first, second, third and honorable mention.

The work submitted must have been completed during the current school year. Deadline for submissions is on or before April 7, 2006.

Awards will be given at a NIPA luncheon on Monday, May 1, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Grand Forks. Students, their parents and advisers are invited to attend. The luncheon is the final event in the NIPA 2006 spring workshop and contest, which is April 30-May 1 at the University of North Dakota Memorial Union and the Hilton Garden Inn.

General Requirements for Entries

- Entries must be the work of students enrolled in grades 9-12 during the current school year or the last semester of the senior year for students' work published after the current deadline.
- To enter a story in the contest (news, feature, sports, editorial, etc.), clip a single copy of the printed story and mount it on an 8.5 x 11-inch sheet of white paper using rubber cement or glue stick. Then staple it (please don't use paper clips) to a NIPA Spring Contest entry blank and complete all of the necessary information on the form. (Entries in categories with larger layouts, multiple stories, double-page spreads and supplements can be submitted as tear sheets stapled directly to the completed entry form).

Criteria considered by judges

- **1. Editorial** -- This entry would appear on the editorial page of the paper. It is the voice of the paper. An editorial is not a bylined personal column, but may be signed on behalf of an editorial board.
- **2. Opinion** -- This is the voice of the writer, not to be confused with an editorial. It can focus on items of personal nature, social issues, or happenings of the world. It can be insightful and/or critical, but not libelous. Judging will evaluate clearness of style, sound reasoning and effort to influence the reader's opinion in what the writer believes is the right direction. An opinion article, the voice of the individual, is always bylined.
- **3. News** -- Shows initiative in obtaining a story that presents new information or a different angle on published information or past events. Judging will be based on general organization, writing style, readability and impact.
- **4. Feature** -- An in-depth topic of interest to readers. Copy will be judged on unusual aspects of the material or the handling, writing style and richness of detail, use of quotes, and readability and thoroughness. The material may be a personality profile or human interest piece.

- **5. Sports** -- Imagination and good application of sports writing style in advance, follow-up, summary or feature coverage of events or sports participants. Avoid play-by-play rehash.
- **6. Column** — Submit three entries, two consecutive and any third one. Analytical scrutiny, satire or personal comment on general or special subjects that entertains and/or educates. May utilize in-depth knowledge, research, study or expertise.
- **7. Feature Photo** — Photo must have viewer emotional response, eye-catching subject matter and storytelling qualities. No posed shots. Judging will be based on the photo's quality as published. Original prints are not required. Submit two copies of published version.
- **8. Sports Photo** -- Photo should be easy to “read” and cropped for impact. It should show the peak of the action; capture an exciting moment or a storytelling facial expression. No posed shots. Judging is based on the quality of the photo as published. Submit two dated copies of the published version.
- **9. Cartooning** — Copy may be generated by computer graphics or freehand and may be a comic strip or cartoon. Judging will consider the text or caption and the use of concept and artistic style. The subject matter is unrestricted. For example, any political, economic or social issue may be covered or any human relations issue or other topic.
- **10. Review** — Entry should be of interest to the publication's readers. Subject may be art or dramatic event or music. Article should include some critical analysis and show writer's knowledge of the subject. Review should be interesting, creatively written and rich in style.
- **11. Graphics** — Entry may be created freehand or electronically. Judging will be on creativity, uniqueness, clarity of relationship to article or publications and entry's visual enhancement of the subject matter. Unsigned work requires adviser's verification.
- **12. Other** – We include this category this year to accommodate entries that might fall outside the traditional categories listed above.