

SCSPA Journalist-of-the-Year Applicant Qualifications

- Be a graduating high school senior
- Have at least a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale.
- Have participated in high school journalism (broadcasting, literary magazine, newspaper and/or yearbook) for at least two years.
- Submit a portfolio (see directions for portfolio preparation and portfolio checklist)
- Be a student member of SCSPA.

Preparing Your SCSPA Journalist-of-the-Year Portfolio

1. Entry material should not exceed 46 one-sided or 23 two-sided pages with application materials not to exceed an additional 10 pages as follows:
 - a. national application
 - b. transcript (1-2 pages). This should be opened and presented as part of the portfolio.
 - c. personal photo (1 page)
 - d. self-analytical essay (1+ pages)
2. Plastic sheet protectors are acceptable. All letters should be opened and included as part of the 46 pages.
3. The pages should be inserted into a three-ring binder designed to hold 8-1/2-by-11-inch paper.
4. **Here are some questions to help you get started on the self-analytical evaluation:** How do you feel about journalism? How did you get started in journalism? What have you contributed to journalism? What have you had to go through to achieve? What are your journalism plans for the future? The evaluation should be long enough for the judges to reach a decision as to your creative qualifications and short enough not to be redundant).
5. **Samples of work should be carefully selected.** The portfolio rubric evaluates candidates in four categories, so students should try to include examples of work that illustrate ALL FOUR categories on the scoring rubric. Provide judges with a good cross section of their best work rather than everything ever produced. **Date, name of publication and relevance should be on the page with each sample.** Include samples showing one or more of the following characteristics. They **should be grouped according to what they represent, and these groupings should be labeled.**
 - a. Skilled and creative use of media content - writing, production, photography, etc.
 - b. Inquiring mind and investigative persistence resulting in in-depth study or studies of issues important to the local high school audience, high school students in general, or society.
 - c. Courageous and responsible handling of sensitive issues — local or societal — despite threat or imposition of censorship.

- d. Variety of journalistic experiences, each handled in a quality manner — newspaper, yearbook, broadcast, photography, Web design, other design work, community and other outside-of-school journalistic work, etc.
6. At least one issue of your newspaper or magazine or photocopies of relevant spreads from your yearbook (not the entire book) should be enclosed so the judges can see the context of your work. One audio or video tapes should accompany an entry that focuses on broadcast work. Time is limited to 15 minutes. The tape should be cued up to the work the judges should view or hear and should have the entrant's name on the tape case.
7. Photocopies of letters, clippings and art are acceptable; however, original prints of photographs should accompany entries based on published pictures.

SCSPA JOY Portfolio Checklist

The applicant must include the following in a portfolio:

- The official entry form available as in Portable Document Format (PDF) on the SCSPA Web site: scspa.sc.edu
- A self-analytical evaluation of your "journalistic life," using your most creative form.
- An action photo of you doing something journalistic — interviewing someone, taking a photograph, designing a page, doing a broadcast standup or talking to your staff. Winners' photos may be used in SCSPA (and JEA) publications.
- An official copy of your transcript.
- Three or four letters of recommendation from your adviser, other teachers who know your leadership and journalistic abilities, and practitioners with whom you have worked. A letter from the principal is desirable, but not absolutely necessary.
- Samples of your work carefully selected to show your quality and diversity of reporting, writing, photography, design, broadcast, online media, etc.
- A self-addressed, padded, stamped envelope large enough to hold your portfolio, if you want it returned.

SCSPA Journalist of the Year Portfolio Scoring Rubric

JUDGES WILL RATE THE APPLICANTS IN FOUR CATEGORIES:

1. Skilled and creative use of media
2. Inquiring mind and investigative persistence
3. Courageous and responsible handling of sensitive issues
4. Variety of journalistic experiences

JUDGES WILL RATE EACH CATEGORY IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

1. **Quality** – Does the material presented in this portfolio demonstrate superior quality of work in the category over an extended period of time?
2. **Scope** – Does the material presented in this portfolio demonstrate a wide range of quality work in the category over an extended period of time?
3. **Impact** – Does the material presented in this portfolio document the impact of this student’s journalistic work in the category over an extended period of time?

JUDGES WILL USE THE FOLLOWING RATING SCALE:

4 = Exemplary 3 = Excellent 2 = Fair 1 = Adequate

SCSPA Journalist-of-the-Year Final Checklist

PORTFOLIO CHECKLIST

- The official application form.
- Self-analytical evaluation of your “journalistic life.”
- Official transcript.
- Action photo of you doing something journalistic.
- Three or four letters of recommendation.
- Samples of your work (divided and labeled into the four categories judges will rate)
- A self-addressed, padded, stamped envelope large enough to hold your portfolio, if you want it returned.
- Make sure the SCSPA office has received your SCSPA student membership fee (\$20).

- Be sure portfolio does not exceed 46 one-sided or 23 two-sided pages with application materials not to exceed an additional 10 pages as follows: (1) SCSPA Journalist-of-the-Year application; (2) transcript (1-2 pages). This should be opened and presented as part of the portfolio; (3) personal photo (1 page); (4) self-analytical essay (1+ pages)
- Broadcast tape, limited to 15 minutes, should be cued to the student's best work.

DEADLINE: In the SCSPA office by Feb. 15, 2012.

Send to:

**Karen Flowers, director
S.C. Scholastic Press Association
Attn: Journalist of the Year
School of Journalism and Mass Communications
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208**

*After putting your portfolio/application in the mail,
e-mail Karen Flowers (flowersk@mailbox.sc.edu) and let her know to expect it.*