

Woman's Press Club of Indiana High School Journalism Contest 2025

EDITORIAL:

1st place:

Niang Lun
Southport High School, Indianapolis
"Journal Address: Nov. 1, 2024"
Adviser: Michael Klopfenstein
From the judge: *Wow, terrific insight on this subject!
Of the several election pieces entered, this was by far the best! Well done!
This paragraph especially was on point:
"What makes a country great is the willingness to be open-minded and explore
outside of comfort zones. This is the only way to discover innovative solutions to
the issues facing the nation. Therefore, as rising leaders, it is important to
introduce new ways of thinking in a world of prejudiced beliefs, because the
privilege to be open-minded exists."*

2nd place:

Brady Cave
Greenwood High School, Greenwood
"Nuhfer defines Woodmen Way"
Adviser: Denise Green

3rd place:

Gabby Jellison
Noblesville High School, Noblesville
"Find the Facts"
Adviser: Joe Akers

Honorable mention:

Lucas Allison
Ben Davis High School, Indianapolis
"What do you want in a president?"
Adviser: Tom Hayes

OPINION:

1st place:

Alex Garzia
Southport High School, Indianapolis
"Staying Strong"
Adviser: Michael Klopfenstein
From the judge: *The writer's passion for the topic is evident throughout the
entire article. The format works well and using real-life examples and weaving
them throughout the story is great. The ending wraps everything up nicely.*

2nd place:

Malek Kamal
Homestead High School, Fort Wayne
"In Defense of America"
Adviser: Catherine Crupi

3rd place:

Elizabeth Johnson
Noblesville High School, Noblesville
"A Little Less Than Whole"
Adviser: Joe Akers

Honorable mention: Siena Johnson
Bloomington High School South, Bloomington
“Bloomington or Blooming-none”
Adviser: Kathleen Mills

Honorable mention: Marissa Villarrubia
Zionsville Community High School, Zionsville
“The Final Scroll”
Adviser: Lauren Wagner

NEWS STORY:

1st place: Luke Kouns
Zionsville Community High School, Zionsville
“Disconnected”
Adviser: Lauren Wagner
From the judge: *Very well written and an important topic. Clever lede. I like the graphic that went along with it.*

2nd place: Mina Vendt
Noblesville High School, Noblesville
“Phone Recall”
Adviser: Joe Akers

3rd place: Deiana Forde
Greenwood High School, Greenwood
“The Suds hosts drama fundraiser”
Adviser: Denise Green

Honorable mention: Anthony Pho
Carmel High School, Carmel
“Personal Electronics Law”
Adviser: Jim Streisel

Honorable mention: Cricket Shelton
Bloomington High School South, Bloomington
“Attendance Matters”
Adviser: Kathleen Mills

Honorable mention: Azalea Bennett-Orsini
Homestead High School, Fort Wayne
“The Story of Rednote”
Adviser: Catherine Crupi

FEATURE STORY:

1st place: Addison Bussell, Andie Harmon
Noblesville High School, Noblesville
“Next Moves”
Adviser: Joe Akers
From the judge: *Excellent piece—you should be proud! You knocked it out of the park on everything that makes for a great article. Nice lede. It kept me guessing and wanting to read more—a crucial aspect for an article, because if the reader doesn’t want to keep reading, you’ve wasted your time. Your writing keeps the reader interested. You wrote great segues, and your article has an excellent pace and flow; you hit on several points well (background, ability, accomplishments,*

helps others, values learned, etc.) without lingering or belaboring. Great job of alternating between longer and shorter sentences. Kudos on getting a quote early in the story so the reader hears the person's voice, not just your words about the person. Great number and use of quotes altogether—they were well selected to tell the story, which means you did a good job on your interviews. And you finished with a nice closing quote. Checkmate!

2nd place:

Catherine Guo
Carmel High School, Carmel
“Learning Sign Language”
Adviser: Jim Streisel

2nd place:

Kara Ennis
Greenwood High School, Greenwood
“Nuhfer takes Silver at Paralympics in Paris”
Adviser: Denise Green

2nd place:

Shawn Feng, Riva Jain
Carmel High School, Carmel
“Carrying the dream forward”
Adviser: Jim Streisel

3rd place:

Simran Baidwan
Southport High School, Indianapolis
“Growing Together”
Adviser: Michael Klopfenstein

3rd place:

Omar Elsayed
Hamilton Southeastern High School, Fishers
“Maya Makalusky: Athlete of the Week ”
Adviser: David Young

Honorable mention:

Zeid Alsalloum
Southport High School, Indianapolis
“A Resilient Route”
Adviser: Michael Klopfenstein

Honorable mention:

Shawn Feng
Carmel High School, Carmel
“Partisan Influences in School Board Election”
Adviser: Jim Streisel

Honorable mention:

Lucy Len Dim
Southport High School, Indianapolis
“From Dream to Reality”
Adviser: Michael Klopfenstein

SPORTS STORY:

1st place:

Max Arnold, Azalea Evans
Noblesville High School, Noblesville
“Keepin’ it Old School”
Adviser: Joe Akers

From the judge: *What an awesome story to highlight a faculty member in this way, and boy, does that faculty member have a story to tell! Loved the layout as well.*

2nd place:

Max Arnold, Aiden Caddell

3rd place: Noblesville High School, Noblesville
 "A Marathon Every Day"
 Adviser: Joe Akers

Honorable mention: Srinithya Basireddy
 Zionsville Community High School, Zionsville
 "Trying on Rugby"
 Adviser: Lauren Wagner

Honorable mention: Jayden Shupe
 Ben Davis High School, Indianapolis
 "Mr. 700"
 Adviser: Tom Hayes

Honorable mention: Srinithya Basireddy
 Zionsville Community High School, Zionsville
 "Serving Up Fun"
 Adviser: Lauren Wagner

Honorable mention: Joleth Herrera
 Ben Davis High School, Indianapolis
 "Giants Come Up Short"
 Adviser: Tom Hayes

Honorable mention: Anthony Farrar
 Zionsville Community High School, Zionsville
 "Hidden Stars"
 Adviser: Lauren Wagner

Honorable mention: Jasmine Zhang
 Carmel High School, Carmel
 "The Impact of Height"
 Adviser: Jim Streisel

Honorable mention: Aiden Caddell
 Noblesville High School, Noblesville
 "Tipp Off"
 Adviser: Joe Akers

COLUMNS/BLOGS:

1st place: Anoushka Jena
 Carmel High School, Carmel
 "Keep the New Gloves: Fighter Safety Is Non-Negotiable"
 Adviser: Jim Streisel
From the judge: *A well-written, effective argument about fighter safety supported by plenty of facts about the UFC/MMA. Excellent work!*

2nd place: Dom Williams
 Greenwood High School, Greenwood
 "Hoo Hoo Hoosiers"
 Adviser: Denise Green

3rd place: Catherine Guo
 Carmel High School, Carmel
 "Love Languages: Words of Affirmation"
 Adviser: Jim Streisel

Honorable mention: Evelyn Foster

Carmel High School, Carmel
"Love Languages: Gift Giving"
Adviser: Jim Streisel
Honorable mention: Omar Elsayed
Hamilton Southeastern High School, Fishers
"Omar's Opinion: Medal Mania"
Adviser: David Young

REVIEW:

1st place: Lucas Allison
Ben Davis High School, Indianapolis
"They call it a 'royale with cheese'"
Adviser: Tom Hayes
From the judge: *The lead grabs the reader from the start and has a tone that makes the reader feel as if the writer is reading it to us himself. The compare/contrast that happens throughout the article is spot on, and the grammar and AP Style are remarkable throughout the entire piece. It reads well and flows well. The ending is perfect!*

2nd place: Emma Hu
Carmel High School, Carmel
"'Challengers' Does it All"
Adviser: Jim Streisel

3rd place: Lucas Allison
Ben Davis High School, Indianapolis
"'Dune' Part 2 worth the wait"
Adviser: Tom Hayes

Honorable mention: Katelyn Chen
Carmel High School, Carmel
"'Arcane' Season 2 exceeds expectations, but ..."
Adviser: Jim Streisel

Honorable mention: Emma Hu
Carmel High School, Carmel
"'The Iron Claw' cannot get enough praise"
Adviser: Jim Streisel

NEWS/FEATURE PHOTO:

1st place: Lilly Ferazzi
Noblesville High School, Noblesville
"A Peek Behind the Curtain"
Adviser: Joe Akers
From the judge: *This is far and away the best news photo in this contest. In fact, a seasoned pro would be delighted to capture this image. I'm especially impressed that a young photographer could hold her own in a media crush. Not only was she camera ready when this moment presented itself, but she didn't let others push her out of the pack. I love the frame within a frame, and the subject is tack sharp. She shot with a wide-angle lens and the background provides context and a sense of place. In addition to being a budding news photographer,*

this high school student is also a talented writer. Excellent work! If you'd like to work with a mentor, look me up.

2nd place:

Michelle Ortega-Morales
Southport High School, Indianapolis
“Freshman Shyanne Doran ... vibraphone”
Adviser: Michael Klopfenstein

3rd place:

Aida Karim
Carmel High School, Carmel
“Litebox Special Feature: Holiday Spectacular”
Adviser: Jim Streisel

SPORTS PHOTO:

1st place:

Joshua Coulon
Hamilton Southeastern High School, Fishers
“Football vs North Central”
Adviser: David Young
From the judge: *I love that all the football players are in motion, their hands and arms are stacked above the football, and the football and face on the right are in sharp focus.*

2nd place:

Anuj Gupta
Carmel High School, Carmel
“Women’s Swimming Invitational”
Adviser: Jim Streisel

3rd place:

Carson Trotter
Hamilton Southeastern High School, Fishers.
“Girls Soccer Sectional Championship Game”
Adviser: David Young

Honorable mention:

Emilie Dale
Hamilton Southeastern High School, Fishers
“Boys Swim and Dive vs Brownsburg”
Adviser: David Young

Honorable mention:

Lauren Kutoloski
Hamilton Southeastern High School, Fishers
“Unified Flag v Lawrence Central”
Adviser: David Young

CARTOONING:

1st place:

Megan Xia
Carmel High School, Indianapolis
“The ‘Great’ Debate”
Adviser: Jim Streisel
From the judge: *Nice work executing the concept in a clear and straightforward way. The painterly style, mixed with the straightforward treatment of the speech bubbles makes the entry seem intentional and considered.*

Second place:

Marianne Guo
Carmel High School, Carmel
“TikTok Ban”
Adviser: Jim Streisel

Third place: Ella Guo
Carmel High School, Carmel
“Social media’s ‘expert’ dating advice”
Adviser: Jim Streisel

Honorable mention: Lynden Johnson
Ben Davis High School, Indianapolis
“Where do you go for news?”
Adviser: Tom Hayes

Honorable mention: Naomi Lang-Par
Southport High School, Indianapolis
“Cupid’s Valentine”
Adviser: Michael Klopfenstein

GRAPHICS/PHOTO ILLUSTRATION:

1st place: Joshua Coulon
Hamilton Southeastern High School, Fishers
“Football Senior Night”
Adviser: David Young
From the judge: *Simple, effective, pleasing to the eye. Nice.*

2nd place: Naomi Lang-Par
Southport High School, Indianapolis
“On the Clock”
Adviser: Michael Klopfenstein

3rd place: Marianne Guo, Ella Guo, Anoushka Jena, Keira Kless, Megan Xu
Carmel High School, Carmel
“The Way the Cookie Crumbles”
Adviser: Jim Streisel

Honorable mention: Hunter Roberts
Ben Davis High School, Indianapolis
“Decision 2024”
Adviser: Tom Hayes

Honorable mention: Marianne Guo
Carmel High School, Carmel
“Election Results Reveal Shift”
Adviser: Jim Streisel

SINGLE-PAGE LAYOUT:

1st place: Marissa Villarrubia
Zionsville Community High School, Zionsville
“The Final Scroll”
Adviser: Lauren Wagner
From the judge: *A creative design in which the elements of the TikTok app are incorporated, as is a solid color scheme. Visually appealing and laid out in a way to make the information concise and easy to read. The central graphic -- of an error message from TikTok -- draws the eye and lets the reader know what the story is about in just a moment. Great job!*

DOUBLE-TRUCK LAYOUT:

1st place:

Azalea Bennett-Orsini
Homestead High School, Fort Wayne
“High-speed rail is on America’s wish list”
Adviser: Catherine Crupi

From the judge: *This design is as close to perfect as it comes. The entirety of the design fits the chosen theme consistently: not just a railway, but Christmas at the same time. They are intertwined without anything feeling forced. And the whole thing -- from headline fonts to the ornaments to the strip of railroad and the sparkles -- feel right out of another era. It's cozy, it's compelling, and it makes the reader want to check out what the story is all about. Completely and without question first place, and deserving of going on to a national competition. This designer submitted other layouts and clearly has a great deal of talent. Keep up the great work, seriously, because the sky's the limit with your design ability.*

2nd place:

Katelyn Schwab
Homestead High School, Fort Wayne
“Allergies on Halloween”
Adviser: Catherine Crupi

3rd place:

Hudson Mulhall
Homestead High School, Fort Wayne
“Fiestas de Octubre”
Adviser: Catherine Crupi

3rd place:

Azalea Bennett-Orsini
Homestead High School, Fort Wayne
“Bugs”
Adviser: Catherine Crupi

Honorable mention:

Adriana Schenkel
Homestead High School, Fort Wayne
“Nosferatu”
Adviser: Catherine Crupi

Honorable mention:

Lainey Morris
Homestead High School, Fort Wayne
“BeReal. Retrospective.”
Adviser: Catherine Crupi

Honorable mention:

Ananya Addepalle, Laxumi Chandrakumar, Katelyn Chen, Keira Kress, Ella Lu, Abigail Lee, Megan Xu
Carmel High School, Carmel
“A Knight to Remember”
Adviser: Jim Streisel

ENVIRONMENT:

1st place:

Anthony Pho, Devyn Hansen, Lucy Han
Carmel High School, Carmel
“Sunscreen Dispensers in Carmel Parks”
Adviser: Jim Streisel

From the judge: *I like this. It's definitely local, and it includes all the right people - student, doctor, city council member, city park personnel. A good combination of writing, photography, graphics.*

What really elevates this piece is its writing. The author knows, maybe instinctively, about the economy of words. That is, tight writing that addresses all angles but is absent of unnecessary verbiage. He takes a topic that is undoubtedly dismissed by many as nice but not all that important - and shows that it indeed is important. The surprise of park visitors is heartwarming.

2nd place: Drake Lockwood, Livia Parmley, Mina Vendt, Bodi Villines
Noblesville High School, Noblesville
“Eviction Notice”

Adviser: Joe Akers

2nd place: Ryan sharp, Evelyn Foster, Arielle Fotso, Megan Xia, Kiera Kress, Leying Yang
Carmel High School, Carmel
“Promoting reliance on farms in increasingly urban times”

Adviser: Jim Streisel

3rd place: Grace Hensley
Homestead High School, Fort Wayne
“What’s at Steak?”

Adviser: Catherine Crupi

Honorable mention: Anthony Farrar, Marissa Villarrubia
Zionsville Community High School, Zionsville
“Climate Chaos”

Adviser: Lauren Wagner

RADIO OR PODCAST PREPARED REPORT:

1st Place: Londyn Hedington, Jackson Giszewski
Whitley County Consolidated Schools, Columbia City
“The Next Gen iPhone is Changing Us”
Adviser: Jordan Glaza

From the judge: *When reading from your script—pay attention to punctuation marks—they are your cues to alter pitch, tone, emphasis and speed—micro seconds can make a big difference.*

For example, your delivery is so speedy you slam into a “why?” so fast your listener loses the emphasis.

Apply the public speaking adage: “Speak two times louder and half as fast and you will enhance your effectiveness as a speaker.” It is evident the host is reading from a script. Prior to broadcast, read your script repeatedly until it is fundamentally memorized—and then, at least pretend you are talking to a friend to enhance the sense of true conversational style.

2nd place: Eileen Roh
Carmel High School, Carmel
“Minute News: December 2024”
Adviser: Jim Streisel

RADIO/TELEVISION INTERVIEW OR TALK SHOW:

1st place: Emilyn “Sam” Spurlock, Cole Patton
Whitley County Consolidated Schools, Columbia City
“One story of growing a community: Cole visits Big Brothers Big Sisters”
Adviser: Jordan Glaza
From the judge: *Excellent.*

*Engaging, deftly targeted questions with confident, smooth delivery.
Host exhibits concise subject knowledge.*

2nd place:

Liam Kruer, Jackson Bixler, Jackson Joyce, Dylan Cope
Hamilton Southeastern High School, Fishers
“SSN Game Day: Pregame Show Live from Noblesville High School”
Adviser: David Young

3rd place:

Chase Thorpe, Caitlin Follman
Carmel High School, Carmel
“Carmel Eatery EP 2: Nov. 16, 2024”
Adviser: Jim Streisel

Honorable mention:

Mahitha Konjeti, Eileen Roh, Caitlin Follman
Carmel High School, Carmel
“Keeping up with Carmel EP 1: Sept. 19, 2024”
Adviser: Jim Streisel

BEST NEWSCAST:

1st place:

NHS News
Noblesville High School, Noblesville
“Around the County: May 29, 2024”
Adviser: Joe Akers
From the judge: *Superb format video-intro with deft drone shots. Engaging and informative content delivered in a captivating manner that holds attention. Well done!*

2nd place:

Excellent post-production editing makes the show all the more captivating.
McKenna Krantz, Caleb Summers, Maddie Burns, Steven Boyd
Whitley County Consolidated Schools, Columbia City
“Who Wants Ice Cream?”

3rd place:

Adviser: Jordan Glaza
Kaan Cekirge, Sydney Pinchouck, Chase Baker, HSETV Staff
Hamilton Southeastern High School, Fishers
“Royal Rundown: April 30, 2024”
Adviser: David Young

Honorable mention:

NHS News
Noblesville High School, Noblesville
“Around the County: May 27, 2024”
Adviser: Joe Akers

VIDEO FEATURE STORY:

1st place:

Addie McMillan, Lucas Zimmer
Noblesville High School, Noblesville
“Behind the Lens”
Adviser: Joe Akers
From the judge: *This is so well done. It tells a full story, offering great perspectives on the subject’s work and process. There are so many areas I think are positives that I wish I could cover everything I like, but we would be here awhile. Very well done!*

2nd place:

Caitlin Follman
Carmel High School, Carmel

3rd place: “Humans of CHS: Letters to your Kindergarten Self – Ella Williams”
Adviser: Jim Streisel
Dana Behlmer, Caidey Swart
Noblesville High School, Noblesville

“A Hoosier Hangout”
Adviser: Joe Akers

Honorable mention: Ivy Zhen
Carmel High School, Carmel
“What is Love?”
Adviser: Jim Streisel

VIDEO SPORTS STORY:

1st place: Luke Conrad, Matt Huseman, Jacob Tracy
Noblesville High School, Noblesville
“A Hidden Gem”
Adviser: Joe Akers

From the judge: *Bowling is a very difficult sport to shoot, so though there is some work that can be done technically to be better, especially when trying to get shots in low-lighting areas, the shots here are great. From there, the content is fantastic. This is informative and interesting, with a great variety of subjects and angles for the story. Very well done!*

2nd place: Aiden Caddell, Jordan Kohlmeier
Noblesville High School, Noblesville
“Tipp Off”
Adviser: Joe Akers

3rd place: Gabrielle Morin
Jennings County Schools, North Vernon
“JCHS Girls Basketball Hype”
Adviser: Jeff Green

Honorable mention: Max Arnold, Aidan Colbart
Noblesville High School, Noblesville
“It’s a Fine Family Thing”
Adviser: Joe Akers

YEARBOOK PHOTO:

1st place: Paola Chavez
Ben Davis High School, Indianapolis
“It’s Time to Party”
Adviser: Tm Hayes

From the judge: *I love this photo! The emotion, and the layers?? I feel like I'm right on the field with the team celebrating. What a wonderful shot. Chaotic moments like these are hard to capture while making sure the photo comes out correctly -- exposure, shutter speed, etc. You have a very promising future as a photographer! Great job!*

2nd place: Alexis Justos
Ben Davis High School, Indianapolis
“Happy Times”
Adviser: Tom Hayes

3rd place: Paola Chavez
Ben Davis High School, Indianapolis
“Tangled”
Adviser: Tom Hayes

YEARBOOK LAYOUT:

1st place: Jaren Peters
Zionsville Community High School, Zionsville
“Boys Soccer”
Adviser: Lauren Wagner
From the judge: *This layout stood out from the rest of the pack in all the best ways! I love the use of color, shape and the font pairings. The images are dynamic and interesting as well, and the color editing matches the color scheme on the page-- it's a subtle but effective visual choice. The captions are great and add great context to the images. In the lower left corner, I like that the full body images are overlaid, instead of a cropped photo surrounded by text. Overall, a great layout. Bravo!*

2nd place: Ollie Christian, Natalie Wilhite
Ben Davis High School, Indianapolis
“ROTC Training”
Adviser: Tom Hayes

3rd place: Kaylee Skillman
Zionsville Community High School, Zionsville
“New Rooms”
Adviser: Lauren Wagner

YEARBOOK COPYWRITING:

1st place: Hudson Mulhall
Homestead High School, Fort Wayne
“Restart Culture: Getting in the water is the hardest part!”
Adviser: Sarah Behrendt
From the judge: *I love this! Everyone enjoys an underdog story - but a team with so many beginners? What???? The copy is short, to the point, and fun to read. And right from the get-go, the reader is already cheering the team on. Especially those newcomers. Kudos also to the coaches and seasoned swimmers for accepting the new guys.*

3rd place: Madeline Martin
Hamilton Southeastern High School, Fishers
“Tragedy to Tasty Triumph”
Adviser: David Young

Honorable mention: Ollie Christian
Ben Davis High School, Indianapolis
“The Dark Side of the Moon”
Adviser: Tom Hayes