

JEA Student Journalist of the Year competition

Following a JEA commitment for all digital contest entries by 2015, this year's national high school Journalist of the Year competition is a digital-only submission. To match JEA's requirements, IHSPA is also requiring a digital application and portfolio submission. **Indiana's deadline is Feb. 15.**

To support the new submission requirements, JEA and Journalist of the Year Coordinator Rebecca Pollard, CJE have developed a guide/tutorial and complete Journalist of the Year contest information, available at the JEA website:

<http://jea.org/home/awards-honors/journalist-of-the-year/>

The area in particular you'll want to visit is the sidebar at the far right of the page which includes

Journalist of the Year

- **Journalist of the Year Scholarships**
- **Contest Requirements & Guidelines**
- **JOY Candidate Toolbox**
- **Organizing Work Examples**
- **Setting Up a WordPress Online Portfolio**
- **Application Form**

Lots of great information there, including tutorials and recommendations, to help anyone involved with the JOY process.

Changes in Digital Submission

- Students must complete an online application. It's best if they type their answers ahead of time in a separate document and copy/paste into the form.
- As part of the application form, students will need to have their transcript, personal resume and letters of recommendation in PDF form for uploading. They should prepare these files ahead of time so the process of completing the online application form is as smooth as possible.
- The photo submitted must be in .jpg format.
- Regarding student work (the actual portfolio artifacts or examples): Students will provide a URL for where the work lives online (such as a student-created WordPress site), or they will upload a PDF portfolio.
- If students choose to create the portfolio as a PDF, it must be one file under 50 MB.
- If students create the portfolio as a website, it must be all at one URL and should be a link to a site, not a link to a Google Drive or Dropbox account.
- Sites like Issuu and LiveBinders are simple for students to upload work and the result is similar to a digital book. Sites like WordPress take a little more time to create but can be more tailored to the student's personal taste.
- The Journalist of the Year rubric also has changed, partly to align with the 11 skill areas of the JEA curriculum, also available on the website. JEA's hope is to level the playing field for all types of media/journalism students and to align with the most important skills and outcomes.

Anyone can contact Rebecca for help at any time: state directors administering the contest, students applying, advisers assisting their students in the process -- anyone! Rebecca's email address is pollardr@friscoisd.org.