

2021 FSPA CONVENTION CONTEST DETAILS

Contest Day is Thursday, April 22. Prompts will be released by 10 a.m. Eastern time on the FSPA website and Twitter, with staggered submission deadlines throughout the day until 7 p.m.

For help: Email fspacontests@gmail.com or text (813) 380-7195. Be as specific as possible with your issue.

IMPORTANT: There are Dropbox links below to files/documents you will need. We suggest using an unrestricted computer to download those files or using a hotspot to download the files. If you cannot access Dropbox, we have also provided a [Google Drive](#) link to access all of these files.

CONTEST SUBMISSION You will submit entries to the betternewspapercontest.com platform used for our fall and spring digital contests. You will find login instructions at the end of this document. **Please ensure your publication has access prior to convention day.**

ENTRY FEES There is a \$5 entry fee for individual contests and \$10 for team contests. Publications will be billed after submitting entries.

ENTRIES Students are welcome to participate in multiple contests, but please note the schedule below to avoid overwhelming a student. Each publication participating in the convention is eligible **to submit one entry per category**. You are welcome -- *encouraged even* -- to have multiple students attempt each contest on Thursday, but you will ultimately have to decide which one entry to submit per publication.

WINNERS Judges will select the top three entries in each category along with honorable mentions. Middle school entries will be submitted to the same categories, with judges asked to recognize top-performing entries.

RULES Unless otherwise noted, no previously recorded or created material -- *including motion graphics and lower thirds* -- may be used for any of these contests. Designers can use existing student-created style sheets and templates in team contests. The [FSPA convention logo](#) should be used in lower thirds. All graphics, animations, music and audio must adhere to copyright law guidelines. Entries submitted after the posted deadlines will not be accepted, so be sure to upload entries in a timely manner.

CATEGORIES (Sorted by deadline time).

02 HAND-DRAWN ILLUSTRATION (\$5) Due at 1 p.m. Create a hand-drawn illustration based on an assigned prompt. Participants must provide their own paper and art supplies. This year's theme is "Outside the Box." Entries must incorporate a box and a student journalist. Students will then

upload a clear JPG or PDF of their entry.

03 MODULE DESIGN (\$5) Due 1:10 p.m. Students will use [this material](#) to create a module that is 8 inches tall and 4 inches wide. The content is photos and quotes from students answering the question “What helped me survive the pandemic?” Students should use InDesign or an online design program and upload a PDF.

04 PTI (\$10) Due by 1:20 p.m. Create a 5:00 sports debate based on provided topics in the style of the ESPN show “Pardon the Interruption.” This is not a technical category and should be recorded and uploaded without editing. A simple two-shot is fine as long as your audio is clear. Your three topics for discussion:

- (1) Should college athletes receive an extra year of eligibility?
- (2) Who is the best mascot (college or pro) in Florida?
- (3) A topic of your choice that is relevant to your campus

Upload to YouTube or Vimeo or share a publicly accessible Google Drive/OneDrive/Dropbox file.

05 POETRY (\$5) Due 1:40 p.m. Print out the [provided text](#), then create a poem using words from the article by crossing out/blacking out the words you don't need. The remaining words will be read in order, forming the poem. You can create your own title, and there is no theme, just keep it to under 250 words. You'll upload a clear photo or scan of your poem as a JPG or PDF. (You may also do the blackout digitally and submit the document as a PDF.

06 PRESS CONFERENCE STORY (\$5) Due at 1:50 p.m. Students will participate in a press conference about skin cancer with [health professionals](#) from the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa. Using information from the provided [fact sheet](#) and gathered from the press conference, compose a story of 450-500 words suitable for a high school publication. No additional information may be used. The press conference will begin at 10:30 a.m. Thursday on Zoom at [this link](#).

07 BROADCAST VIDEO TIP (\$10) Due at 2 p.m. A team of up to four students will produce a tutorial video (not to exceed 4:00) in which they demonstrate how to make a simple do-it-yourself project. Your crafter does not need to be one of the four students. Upload to YouTube or Vimeo or share a publicly accessible Google Drive/OneDrive/Dropbox document.

08 OPINION COLUMN (\$5) Due 2:10 p.m. Write an opinion column/commentary that takes a position on how schools must balance ensuring student safety with concerns about over-policing campuses. Feel free to consult reputable sources of information and localize specifically to your campus. Entries will need to be typed and uploaded as a PDF.

09 REVIEW WRITING (\$5) Due 2:20 p.m. Students will write a review about a method of conducting virtual meetings, e.g. Skype, Zoom, Teams, etc. Include pros and cons and feel free to include a brief rating system (such as 1-10 or five stars or something original). 400-450 words. Entries will need to be typed and uploaded as a PDF.

10 ACADEMICS PHOTOGRAPHY (\$5) Due by 2:30 p.m. Work spaces have changed dramatically

over the last year. Take a photo of a student, teacher or parent in their work space. If you're working on this from home alone, set a timer and feel free to take a self-portrait. This photo must be taken today. Please add your photo to a document and include a thorough caption. Submit the document as a PDF.

11 STUDENT LIFE PHOTOGRAPHY (\$5) Due by 2:40 p.m. Your editors are looking for a photo that could carry the title page of a yearbook with the theme "Around Here." In brainstorming, they said they want a photo that prominently features something round but also includes people -- but if you find something else that could fit that theme, go for it! The photo must be taken today. Please add your photo to a document and include a thorough caption. Submit the document as a PDF.

12 MINI-MAGAZINE DESIGN (\$10) Due by 2:50 p.m. A group of up to four students will create a mini-magazine using this [provided content](#). The magazine should be 8 pages -- each 6 inches tall and 6 inches wide. You can bleed elements. Students will submit a completed PDF of their magazine. The content includes photos and student responses to the question "What is it like to be an eLearner" and "What is it like to be back on campus," answered by students who were eLearners in the first semester. All students featured in the content are eighth graders. This is an atypical page size by design, so if it helps, think of this as a tip-in/supplement suitable for a yearbook.

13 SHORT STORY (\$5) Due at 3 p.m. Create a short story about an underage student who finds a winning lottery ticket. Their attempts to find a trustworthy adult who can cash it in for them lead to disaster (you should probably explain why they don't give it to their parents). Maximum 1,000 words. Submit as a PDF.

14 BROADCAST COMMENTARY (\$10) Due at 3:15 p.m. A team of up to four students will produce a commentary on ways to create unity among diverse groups of people. You can explore areas such as politics, culture, music, etc. Max time 1:30. Upload to YouTube or Vimeo or share a publicly accessible Google Drive/OneDrive/Dropbox file.

15 INDIVIDUAL NEWS ANCHOR (\$5) Due 3:30 p.m. Students will prepare and record a script based on three current headlines -- a national story, a local/state story and a story based on events at your school. All stories should be told in ways that are relevant to your audience. The news update should be 1:30-1:45. Use of a teleprompter is allowed but not required. No editing (beyond trims at the start/end) is permitted. Upload to YouTube or Vimeo or share a publicly accessible Google Drive/OneDrive/Dropbox file.

16 BROADCAST NEWS PACKAGE (\$10) Due at 3:45 p.m. A team of up to four members will produce a news package (max time 2:00) in which they identify an issue of concern among the student body at your school. The issue does not need to be serious, but does need to be something people care about. Report on the cause of the issue and the solutions, if any, that are being taken to correct it. This is NOT a commentary. Upload to YouTube or Vimeo or share a publicly accessible Google Drive/OneDrive/Dropbox file.

17 LITERARY MAGAZINE TEAM (\$10) Due by 4 p.m. A team of up to four students will work

together to create a double-page literary magazine spread with the theme “The Light at the End of the Tunnel.” The spread should include at least one original written element and at least one visual element. Submit as a PDF. Upload to YouTube or Vimeo or share a publicly accessible Google Drive/OneDrive/Dropbox file.

18 BROADCAST PSA (\$10) Due at 4:15 p.m. A team of up to four students will plan, record and edit a 60-second PSA that discusses respecting your elders. Total running time should be exactly 30 seconds or exactly 60 seconds. Upload to YouTube or Vimeo or share a publicly accessible Google Drive/OneDrive/Dropbox file.

19 PODCAST (\$5) Due by 4:30 p.m. In a group of no more than four, produce an audio podcast (not to exceed 7:00) that explores the role “influencers” play in society. Your finished podcast must be uploaded and submitted as a URL.

20 NEWSPAPER TEAM (\$10) Due by 6 p.m. A team of up to four student journalists will work together to plan and produce a double-page newspaper spread that explores the topic of how the pandemic has exerted extra stress on families. Students must take all photos, create all artwork, write all stories and design all pages. While we typically try not to feature publication staff members in content, given the complexity of this topic + the time constraints of the topic, feel free to feature staff members. Max size for each page is 11 x 17 inches. Submit as a double-page spread PDF.

21 MULTIMEDIA TEAM (\$10) Due by 6:10 p.m. A group of up to four students will work together to create a multimedia feature that takes an in-depth look at lunch on your campus. We’ll leave the specifics up to you, but note a multimedia package would include multiple mediums such as text, photos, audio, video, etc. Submit a single web link to the completed package.

22 BROADCAST EDIT TO THE BEAT (\$10) Due at 6:20 p.m. A team of up to four students will record and edit a reel that features your school mascot in as many settings as possible. You can use a paper cutout, a mascot costume, a mini-mascot ... but the mascot should appear in every single shot of the video. Do not digitally insert the mascot into the video. Download the [audio file](#) here. The 1:30 track is “Feeling the Groove” by Ryan Baiano. Be sure to credit the artist. Upload to YouTube or Vimeo or share a publicly accessible Google Drive/OneDrive/Dropbox file.

23 YEARBOOK TEAM (\$10) Due by 6:30 p.m. A team of up to four student journalists will work together to plan and produce a yearbook spread about backpacks. Feel free to unpack that prompt (pause for laughter) as you would like ...but all content must be from April 22. Submit as a PDF, in spread format if possible.

24 SHORT FILM (\$10) Due 6:40 p.m. A maximum of six students will plan, write, record and star in a max 5:00 short film based on a provided prompt. The film will be evaluated on cinematography, lighting, sound and storytelling. Team members are the only students who may appear in or participate in the production of the film (other than extras/background). The title of your film should be “Like an Honest Man and a Soldier.” One technique you will be required to include is an extreme close-up. Also, a print of [this photo](#) must appear somewhere within your

film. Upload to YouTube or Vimeo or share a publicly accessible Google Drive/OneDrive/Dropbox file.

25 INSTAGRAM STORY (\$10) Due by 7 p.m. 1-2 students will create a day-long Instagram story that documents their classmates' participation in FSPA convention Day 1. An effective Instagram story is a series of posts that exhibit creativity, interactivity and multimedia. You will download the story as a video, then share the video via YouTube, Vimeo or a publicly accessible Google Drive/OneDrive/Dropbox file. Do not edit the video file.

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Submitting Entries

How to access the submission database:

1. Go to <http://betternewspapercontest.com>
2. In the top menu, select "Contestant Login"
3. Select the "Contestant Manager" tab and "FSPA Spring 2021 Convention Contests" on the left menu (It's near the bottom).
4. Then, on the right menu, select your publication. They are listed by school, publication. If your organization is not listed, skip down on this document to the "HELP! I can't access the database" section.
5. The password is the same you used for spring digital contests. If you did not enter those contests or cannot remember your password, see the "HELP! I can't access the database" section below on this page.
6. You may be asked to update your contact information, change your password or more. You may also be asked to read and agree to the terms of use. Hit submit once you have done all of that.
7. For first-time users, after uploading a few entries, you may receive an email asking you to confirm your email address. You will be unable to upload additional entries until you've completed this important security step. We strongly suggest you make an effort to clear this hurdle ASAP because there will be no extensions granted for entries and sometimes that email can get caught by a spam filter. School email addresses are especially prone to getting these emails stuck and sometimes advisers need to resort to a GMail address that will let that email through.

HELP! I can't access the database...

- If you are unable to log-in, send an email with the subject line DATABASE to fspacontests@gmail.com. Make sure your name, your publication name, school and your email address are included in the message, along with an explanation. Again, provide us with specific information here so we can help you! DO NOT use the help feature on the website, which goes to our vendor.

Navigating the entry form

1. Once you've logged in successfully, go to "My Contest" in the top menu and select "submit entry."
2. Select GENERAL for "Division"

3. Then select the category you want to enter.
4. Under headline or title, provide a headline or description for each entry.
 - Follow the instructions for submitting specific types of files. DO NOT submit Word docs; DO NOT attempt to attach audio or video files. **You can submit one entry per category.**

Who should be credited: Enter the names of up to four students. If more than four students contributed to an entry, enter "Staff" for the entry name. Entries also require you to respond to a RECAPTCHA. Please do not type student names in all lowercase or all caps.

THIS IS IMPORTANT!!! Managing Entries

Once you've uploaded content, you can view and edit your entries at any time by going to the top left menu "my contest" and selecting "manage entries."

This screen will allow you to see all of your entries at a glance. You're able to click on any file you uploaded to review it or any link you provided to test it. On the right side of each submission, select "edit" to change an entry; "disable" if you wish to keep an entry in the database but not submit it and "delete" to eliminate an entry from the database.

NOTE: Once we have confirmed your entry, you can only DISABLE it. So if you submit something and decide you no longer wish to enter it, you would need to click DISABLE. If you delete or disable a category entry, that category will reappear in the pulldown menu on the page where you submit entries. Since this is a one-day contest, these circumstances should be limited.

Please make sure you test the attachments and links to ensure the content is viewable by judges.

Billing

After the contest window closes, you will be invoiced on your account on the FSPA website.