



Spring 2023 Convention Contests

- All entries will be submitted through the [BetterNewspaperContest.com](https://www.betternewspapercontest.com) platform (the same one we use for fall and spring digital contests). Students and advisers will need devices to facilitate creation and submission of entries. (A combination of phones, cameras and computers within your traveling party will probably be best). Advisers need to communicate with students the procedures and expectations for uploading contest entries or handle uploading on behalf of their publication.
- Other than On-the-Spot News Anchor, no pre-registration is required. You will be billed only for the contests you enter. Individual contests are \$7 and team contests are \$10. You will be invoiced after the convention.
- For most categories, you can submit two entries for each category per publication/program registered for the convention. There are some exceptions noted below, but overall, students have wide access to participate in our hands-on competitions.
- Judging will be completed off-site Thursday-Friday and results will be announced on Saturday morning.
- Given that insane timeline, we will not have time to fix entries with broken links or missing attachments. Make sure work is on PUBLIC links that work outside your system/computer. What you submit is what will be provided to judges; use the Manage Entries page to check for and test links/attachments.
- Use of drones is prohibited by the hotel, and will disqualify all entries by any program caught using one.
- All footage must be shot at the Wyndham or the overflow hotel (though that's at the discretion of hotel management there and most prompts, honestly, are best done here around other students).
- Contest Central is the ORANGE Room. If you need help, go there. Students with work that is not yet exported after the deadline will be turned away.

– You may want to consider purchasing at least one room worth of faster Internet as the hotel's public Wifi is notoriously unreliable. That said, come to ORANGE before the deadline if you need help getting something uploaded.

BROADCAST

(03) Broadcast Commentary – A team of up to four students will create a 1:30-1:45 broadcast commentary that explains to skeptics why events such as FSPA's state convention are so important for students and advisers. Publish to a public weblink and submit by 7:15 p.m.

(04) Motion Graphic Infographic – An individual will create a :20 to :30 second animated infographic that explains how to calculate a 20 percent tip on a restaurant bill. Check your math! Publish to a public weblink and submit by 7 p.m. (NOTE: This is later than the time listed in the program. You're welcome.)

(05) Collaborative Commercial – Enter one contestant per publication/program. A group of 3-4 students from different schools will work together to plan, create and edit a 30-second commercial for an assigned product. Contestants should meet at 4:30 p.m. in the Marathon/Cedar room to form groups and collect the product. One member of the team will upload the video on behalf of the full team – publish to a public link and submit that link by 8:30 p.m.

(06) News Package – A group of up to four students create a 1:30-1:45 news package about a proposed law that would change start times for middle and high schools. This [Tampa Bay Times](#) article provides details and you can also review Florida House [Bill 733](#) and [this analysis](#) of the bill. While your own school district may already be within the bounds of what this bill proposes, craft your package for a statewide audience. Publish to a public weblink and submit by 8 p.m.

(07) On-Camera Interview – You will be conducting an on-camera interview with a local balloon animal artist. The goal is to produce a fun, interactive appearance similar to what would be found on a morning talk show. Meet in the Cedar Room at 4 p.m. to draw time slots. Participation is limited to 12 teams and will be determined by random draw if more than that many teams show up. Limit of one team per school. Teams will have 10 minutes with the interview subject. Edit the interview to a max 5:00 segment. Publish to a public weblink and submit by 10:15 p.m.

(08) News Anchor – For contestants who pre-qualified through spring digital contests. Students will be provided information and one hour to write a broadcast script, then deliver that script to camera. Pre-qualified contestants should report to the Fleming room at 8:45 p.m. for an orientation meeting. FSPA will record and upload your entries to the judge.

(09) Edit to the Beat – A group of up to four students will create a montage of convention activities using provided music as a driving force. Limit your video to 1:30. Submit a weblink to the finished project. [Download the song here](#). Publish to a public weblink and submit by 10:30 p.m.

(10) Short Film – A team of up to six students will work together to plan, create and edit a 4:00-5:00 romantic comedy that features a wacky best friend in a supporting role. Publish to a public weblink and submit by 11 p.m.

(11) PTI – In teams of two, students will engage in 5:00 of debate based on provided topics related to sports. Prompts will be provided to contestants at 8:30 p.m. Thursday in the Orange room. Contest is limited to 10 teams; if more than 10 show up, a random draw will be used to determine participation. Schools may be limited to a single competing team based on space. Contest will be held at 9 a.m. Friday. No upload is required; FSPA will judge this live on Friday morning.

MULTIMEDIA

(12) Instagram Story – As an individual, cover the lip sync battle happening at 9 p.m. in the Palms Ballroom. The best entries in this category use a variety of the tools available on Instagram such as polls and tagging. Judges will also look at video quality, audio quality and creativity. You will need to download your story as a video file, then publish the video to a public weblink and submit the link. The deadline for this category is now 10:30 p.m., which is later than what is published in the program.

(13) Podcast – In a group of up to four, create a 7:00-8:00 podcast focused specifically on 8th and/or 12th graders and their hopes/dreams/fears heading into their final weeks of middle and/or high school and beyond. You may not interview anyone from your own school. Your podcast may be uploaded as a video file with a single image for the video portion or published to an audio platform such as Soundcloud. Publish to a public weblink and submit by 11 p.m.

(14) Video Short Challenge – Entire publications/programs will work together to create a single video short (on TikTok, Instagram or YouTube) that takes a humorous look at #JournalismStudentProblems. Submit a link to your published short by 10:30 p.m.

PHOTOGRAPHY

(15) Portrait Photography – Create a technically sound photograph of a person that effectively incorporates the sunset. Submit a JPG of the image. Submit as a JPG by 8:30 p.m. (a time later than what is listed in the program so you have time to capture the sunset.)

(16) Spot News Photography – Take a candid photo that captures the hectic rush of convention. Place onto a single document along with a detailed, journalistic caption and submit as a PDF. An effective caption should identify the subjects and action of the photo, provide context and include a quote from the person pictured. Submit by 6:30 p.m.

ART AND DESIGN

(17) Module Design – As an individual, create a 7” wide x 3” tall module about unusual things about students’ phones – lock screen photos, an insane number of notifications, scary screen time stats, zany Pop Sockets, etc. You will need to complete all reporting and design the module. Submit as a PDF by 6:30 p.m.

(18) Hand-Drawn Illustration – As an individual, create an original hand-drawn illustration that would be suitable to accompany [this editorial](#) recently published in The Independent Florida Alligator at the University of Florida. This can be hand-drawn on a tablet or hand-drawn on paper, in which case you will need to take a clear photo or scan (consider the CamScanner app) of your entry and submit a JPG or PDF by 5:30 p.m.

(19) Steven J. Thor Mixed Company Contest – One student per publication may enter. They’ll be paired with students from other schools to prepare a magazine spread on an assigned prompt. Interested contestants should meet in the Lime room at 8 p.m. to receive the prompt and get matched with students from other schools. One member of the team will submit the finished project as a PDF by 10 p.m.

TEAM CONTESTS

(20) Literary Magazine Team – In a team of up to four, create a literary magazine spread inspired by the convention theme “Stars Align.” Submit as a PDF by 8 p.m.

(21) Multimedia Team – In a team of up to four, create multimedia web coverage of “FSPA Fashion Trends.” A successful entry in this category should include multiple methods of reporting such as text, photography, video, audio and/or interactive graphics. This is not meant to be just a video project. Submit a single public weblink to your published work by 9 p.m.

(22) Newsmagazine Team – In a team of up to four, create a newsmagazine cover (8.5 x 11”) and inside spread (2 8.5 x 11” pages) devoted to showing us the “faces of FSPA” – but find a better title than that! Produce great photography and strong writing to help us meet some of the 1,200+ people gathering for the 2023 convention. Submit as a single PDF document by 10 p.m.

(23) Yearbook Team – As a makeup for last year’s super difficult prompt, here’s a straightforward one: In a team of up to four, create a double-page spread that covers the convention as you see fit. Submit as a PDF by 10:30 p.m.

WRITING

(24) Opinion Column – Florida. That’s the topic. Aim for about 400 words. Take a position on the way things are going in this state. The judge isn’t interested in what side of the fence you’re on, so long as you’re not on the fence. Make a strong, compelling argument and show an engaging voice. Submit as a PDF by 5:30 p.m.

(25) Poetry Writing – The convention theme is “Stars Align.” Write a poem of the same name. Submit as a PDF by 5 p.m.

(26) News Story – As an individual, create a story that explores the potential impacts of ChatGPT and similar AI technologies on scholastic journalism. Talk to students and advisers, but none from your school. Submit as a PDF by 7 p.m.

(27) Review Writing – As an individual, write a fashion review of the NBA’s new “City Edition” jerseys, designed to showcase “the stories, history and heritage that make each franchise unique.” [This link](#) shows you all of them ... don’t try to write about them all. Consider focusing on the best and worst of the bunch. Keep it under 500 words. Submit as a PDF by 6 p.m.

(28) Short Story – Create a max 700-word short story about a once-successful author’s internal struggle to develop characters for his latest project. Submit as a PDF by 7 p.m.