

Worried?

Don't stress. Here's a guide to preparing for the contest ...

JUDGING

Feb. 20-23, 2005
Torrance Marriott
Torrance, Calif.

Rate: \$139 per night
Phone: 310-316-3636
(Executive committee meeting and cocktail hour are scheduled for Feb. 19)

ENTRY DEADLINE

Entries must be postmarked by midnight Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2005
(Look for where to send your entries in a special flyer in early January.)

ELIGIBILITY

Payment of dues by one individual at a newspaper makes everyone from that paper eligible.

CIRCULATION CATEGORIES

- Under 40,000
 - 40,000-100,000
 - 100,000-250,000
 - Over 250,000
- (Circulation for all categories, including Sunday section, based on daily circulation)*

MANDATORY DATES

- DAILY**
- Jan. 27, 2004
 - Mandatory TBA
 - Two of your choice

SUNDAY

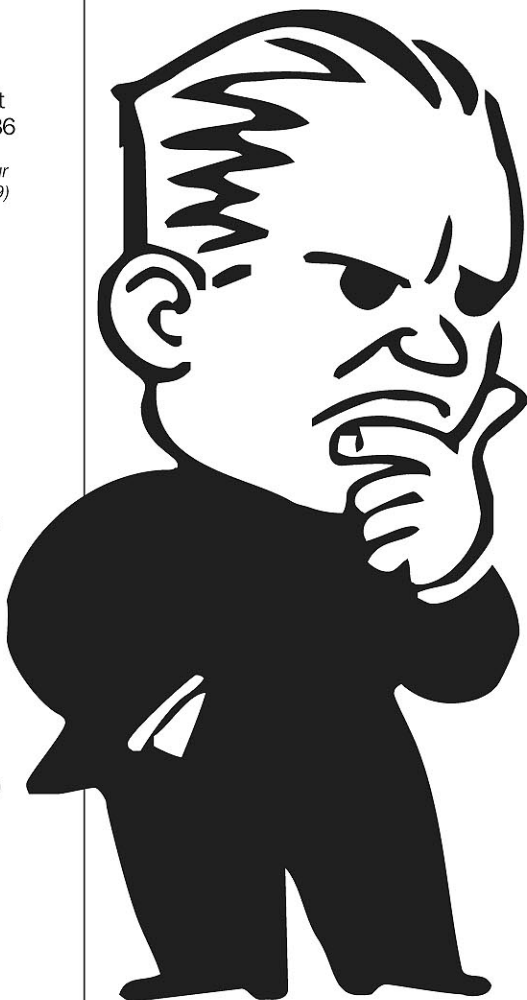
- April 4, 2004
- Mandatory TBA
- Two of your choice

SPECIAL SECTION

- Any ONE date

HOW TO BE A JUDGE

It's the toughest job you'll ever love. Really. Contact Celeste Williams. 817-390-7697
cxwilliams@star-telegram.com



WHAT'S A COVER LETTER?

A cover letter actually isn't a letter at all. It's more like a form that gives judges pertinent information. You must follow this strict format or your letter will be tossed! The letter must be on a blank 8½ X 11 sheet of paper and can not identify the newspaper or writer.

Origin of the idea of the story: Xyxyxyxy
xyxyxyxyxyxyxy...

Timeliness of its publication: Xyxyxyxy
xyxyxyxyxyxyxyxy...

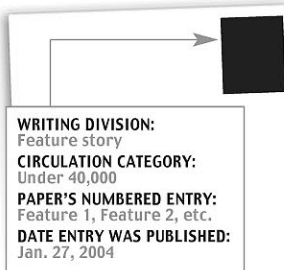
Difficulty in acquiring it: Xyxyxyxyxyxy
xyxyxyxyxy...

Impact, reaction, aftermath: Xyxyxyxy
xyxyxyxyxyxyxyxy...

Project reporting 1
(Signed with the numbered entry it was submitted with)

HOW DO I PREPARE MY ENTRIES?

Writing divisions: Each entry must be submitted as newspaper clippings pasted within the edges of an 8½ X 11 sheet of paper. Folding is not permitted. Library printouts are not acceptable. Multiple-page entries must be stapled in the upper left-hand corner. No paper clips. Each entry must include entry information in the upper right-hand corner of the first page.



Section divisions: Each entry must include a 3X5 index card with entry information. What it should look like:

SECTION DIVISION: Sunday, Daily or Special
PAPER: Anypapersname
CITY: Anytown, USA
DAILY CIRCULATION: XX,XXX
DAYS OF PUBLICATION: 7 days, Mon-Fri., etc. ...

WRITING DIVISIONS

Breaking news story

► Article of a sports news development (trades, hirings, firings, franchise shifts, etc.) that occurred yesterday.

3

1



Explanatory

► Article may include graphics and sidebars that shed new light on issues and personalities. Should be more than a feature, but less than a project.

2

1+



Game story

► Article of an competition that occurred yesterday.

3

1

Feature story

► Best single article. No series. No sidebars. Judging based on human interest, quality of writing, thoroughness of reporting.

3

1

Column writing

► Judged based on style, writing quality, originality and local appeal. No restriction on subject matter and no requirement that they appear regularly.

2

5

Project reporting

► Collection of articles that sheds new light on personalities and issues in the news, including trends and original ideas.

1

1+



Investigative

► Single article or series that uncovers newsworthy facts and developments that otherwise might not have been reported. Should NOT rely on anonymous sources.

1

1+



Note: Writers are allowed to be entered in each category only once.