



FSPA 2011 State Convention- Hilton located in the Walt Disney World Resort  You like this.

## On-the-Spot Contest Descriptions and Policies

Contests are an important part of the FSPA Convention. Hundreds of students will participate, competing for certificates and for bragging rights; contests encourage students to practice and exhibit their journalism skills. Advisers, too, get involved in contests — as judges and proctors. Running the contests requires help from many people, so if you have students entered in contests, remember that you are required to help judge or proctor a contest. Take some time to read through the contest descriptions, rubrics, materials lists and policies regarding one of the most popular parts of the FSPA convention.

**There are two main categories of contests:** On-the-Spot and Carry-in (Carry-in info will be posted March 1).

On-the-Spot contests require pre-registration. This must be done when you register for the convention on the FSPA website; payment must also be included in advance. No refunds are available, but substitutions are allowed.

**Individual contests cost \$5**

**Team contests cost \$10**

### Judge and Proctors

Each school must provide a judge for at least one contest — and advisers may not judge a contest his/her students are participating in. Be sure to indicate the judge's last name, qualification, and his or her preferred contest on the entry form on this page. We will do our best to accommodate your first choice. Judges/Advisers will be notified before the convention as to their scheduled time and location. Failure to provide a qualified judge will result in the disqualification of eligibility of your school to win any broadcast awards.

Judging rubrics will be available on the FSPA website <http://www.jou.ufl.edu/fspa/> prior to the convention. Make sure you read through everything so your school is adequately prepared.

### Questions?

Questions about print contests can be directed Joe Humphrey ([joseph.humphrey@sdhc.k12.fl.us](mailto:joseph.humphrey@sdhc.k12.fl.us)). Kate Montero ([kate.montero@browardschools.com](mailto:kate.montero@browardschools.com)) is coordinating broadcast contests. Questions about payment are handled by the FSPA office ([fspa@jou.ufl.edu](mailto:fspa@jou.ufl.edu)).

- All contestants must register for the convention to participate in contests. Contests fill up quickly, and registrations are processed on a first come, first served basis.
- Bring only the materials listed in the contest description. No other materials are allowed. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification.
- Any publication whose representative(s) is found cheating in any FSPA competition will be disqualified from the event and, at the discretion of the Executive Board, may be further penalized, including being banned from participating in any FSPA activity through the end of the following academic year.
- Written instructions and rules for each category are given to each contestant at the time of the contest.
- All entries are to remain anonymous — contest packets are identified by number. If any individual name, school name or identifying mark is included

# On-the-Spot Contests

with the contest entry, the entry will be disqualified.

- The proctor will open the contest promptly, give all explanations, distribute fact sheets, introduce the speaker (if necessary) and enforce time limits.

- Each contest has proctors who have been informed of their duties and responsibilities. Proctors must collect all materials before contestants leave the room.

- Contestants must stay in the designated area during the contest. If anyone leaves the room before his/her entry is submitted to the contest moderator, the entry will be disqualified.

- No contestants will be given additional time under any circumstances. A time reminder will be given.

- All entries will be judged by at least two judges.

- The ratings are: First, Second and Third for each contest. Awards are given at the judges' discretion, and it is possible that a judge may choose to not award all ratings or may award Honorable Mentions.

- Winners receive certificates and are recognized at the closing session. Winning entries may be displayed or published. Contest entries are made available for pick up after the awards ceremony at the registration table.

## Broadcast and Multimedia

### On-the-Spot Broadcast

**PLEASE NOTE: ALL SUBMISSIONS MUST BE TURNED IN ON MINI DV or FLASH DRIVE ONLY (extension .dv or .mov) – NO DVDs WILL BE ACCEPTED. PLEASE KNOW HOW TO OPERATE YOUR EQUIPMENT AND PLAN ACCORDINGLY.**

*You may enter ONE student in Thursday night's Individual News Anchor, and ONE student in Collaborative Commercial.*

**INDIVIDUAL NEWS ANCHOR** / Thursday, April 28  
**EVENING**

Student will read a provided news script on camera with approximately 10 minutes to review/make notes beforehand. A TELEPROMPTER WILL BE PROVIDED. Only one student per school may enter.

**COLLABORATIVE COMMERCIAL** / Friday, April 29th  
**MORNING**- One student per school may sign up

The student will be paired with two students from different schools. This team of three, which will be announced the morning of the contest, will have three hours to shoot and edit a 30-second max commercial on a topic provided just before the contest begins. Schools will need to bring their own computers with editing software to participate in this contest. Nothing will be provided. No previously recorded material may be used. Any graphics/animation/music must adhere to copyright guidelines.

*You may enter groups in THREE of the following five contests:*

- Package Editing
- Cinema Challenge
- Video Photo Journalism
- Scriptwriting
- Edit to the Beat

**CINEMA EDITING CHALLENGE** / Thursday, April 28  
**EVENING**

A team of up to three students will receive a flash

**VIDEO PHOTOJOURNALISM** / Friday, April 29  
**MORNING**

Up to four students will shoot video according to

drive with all the footage (multiple takes/shots, etc.) from an actual scene in an independent movie, and will be given three hours to edit a cohesive scene together for judging. Some music/sound effects will be provided, but students may create their own soundtrack, and/or graphics. Schools will need to bring their own computers with editing software to participate in this contest. No equipment provided.

### **NEWS PACKAGE / Friday, April 29**

#### **MORNING**

Student news teams of up to four members will produce a news package (not to exceed 2 minutes) on a press release that will be distributed just before the contest begins. Schools will need to bring their own computers with editing software to participate in this contest. Nothing will be provided. No previously recorded material may be used. Any graphics/animation/music must adhere to copyright.

a topic provided. Camera work will be judged on both technical and composition values as well as on creativity. No editing is required.

### **SCRIPTWRITING / Friday, April 29**

#### **MORNING**

Up to three students will write a script for a package according to a topic provided. Reporting is necessary for accuracy, but no camera work is required. Please visit the rubric on the FSPA website for judging criteria.

### **EDIT TO THE BEAT / Friday, April 29 MORNING**

Students are given a one-minute song. This group, of no more than four, must shoot video of students at the FSPA convention and edit this footage to the beat. The winning entry will be the start of the closing video of the convention, played on Saturday morning.

## Print Publications Team Contests

**We are making a major change to our team contests this year.** While they are called “on the spot,” they actually will be completed ahead of time and submitted electronically. The FSPA Board made this change for several reasons.

1. We realize not every school has access to laptop computers or the ability machines loaded with necessary software convention.
2. Last year’s effort to transport staff members to/from an off-campus site was time-consuming, confusing and expensive.
3. Letting students use their own equipment back on their campus will result in the best work. We also hope students will use it as a pre-convention bonding experience.

### **So how does this work?**

Publications will sign up for these contests as usual. But instead of competing at convention, they will select a time window in which to complete the task back on their campus.

Staffs may select Window A (April 11-14) or Window B (April 18-21). The materials will be available starting the first day the window opens. The finished spread must be returned by the deadline on the last day the window is open.

So if a staff selects Window A, materials will be available for download starting the morning of April 11 and a finished spread will be due by the evening of April 14.

Specific instructions for downloading materials and submitting entries will be communicated directly to advisers using e-mail and the FSPA website.

### **Why two windows?**

We understand that some schools will be on spring break or face other conflicts, so a staff will just have to decide on an option when they register for the convention.

# On-the-Spot Contests

## LITERARY MAGAZINE TEAM

A team will select writing, artwork and/or photos and write an original selection, then design a double-page spread. Students should establish criteria for selecting material and be prepared to defend/explain their choices.

## NEWSPAPER TEAM

A team will design and layout pages, write/edit copy, crop photographs. Categories may include double

truck, editorial, feature page, front page or sports page (category assignment is random).

## YEARBOOK TEAM

Design a double-page spread, crop photos, write/edit copy, incorporate theme and add finishing touches. Categories may include academics, opening, sports or student life (category assignment is random).

# Print Publications Team Contests

Each staff may enter 1 person per category. Note the time schedule to avoid conflicts. Any staff that enters an on-the-spot category must supply a qualified contest judge.

**MATERIALS:** Contestants may bring only these materials to use during the contests: dictionary, thesaurus, paper, pens, pencils, watches. Contestants in the Illustration and Advertising contests may also bring colored pencils, rulers and white paper. Each photography contestant **MUST** have his/her own digital camera and a card reader or camera cord.

**Newsfeature Writing** / Thursday, April 28 *EVENING*  
Prepare a newsfeature story on an assigned topic under deadline.

**Sports Column Writing** / Thursday, April 28 *EVENING*  
Prepare a sports column on an assigned topic under deadline.

**Editorial Writing** / Thursday, April 28 *EVENING*  
Attend an editorial board meeting and then write an editorial based on the discussion within the meeting

**Review Writing** / Thursday, April 28 *EVENING*  
Prepare a review of a live performance

**Short Story** / Thursday, April 28 *EVENING*  
Prepare a short story based on an assigned prompt

**Poetry** / Thursday, April 28 *EVENING*  
Prepare a poem based on assigned criteria

**Illustration** / Thursday, April 28 *EVENING*  
Prepare a hand-drawn illustration based on assigned criteria

**Advertisement** / Thursday, April 28 *EVENING*  
Prepare a print advertisement for a specific product or service as assigned. Will require hand-drawing a print ad.

**Photography** / Thursday, April 28 *EVENING*  
Take news and/or feature photos on assigned topics during the convention under time constraints. Participants must supply their own digital camera and card reader or camera cord.

**Mixed Company** / Friday, April 29 *MORNING*  
Enter one member of your staff in "mixed company," an unpredictable good time in which members of multiple publications work together to design a spread (newspaper, yearbook or lit mag). Mixed Company is a team contest, but you must register as an individual, because you will be the only one from your publication in this contest.

**Best Twitter Use** / *CONTINUOUS*  
We will assign a specific hashtag to the event and judges will look at who's doing the best job reporting — and entertaining — through the use of Twitter. #thisisacoolnewcontest!