

# 2025 OCMA CONTEST



*The OCMA Contest recognizes excellence in student journalism at Oklahoma colleges.*

## CONTEST ENTRY RULES

### ENTRY DEADLINE

All entries must be submitted online by Monday, February 16, 2026.

### CONTEST PERIOD

Content published from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, is eligible.

### ELIGIBILITY

The contest is open to current OCMA members that have paid membership dues for the 2025-2026 school year.

### ENTRY FEE

\$5 per entry in each category.

### ENTRIES

Every entry must be logged in the contest website. If you submit multiple entries in one category, each must be entered as a new entry. Entries will be judged only in the category in which they are submitted online. Judges are not permitted to move entries to other categories.

For most categories there is a limit on the number of entries allowed per person and school. These limits are indicated in each category description.

All entries become the property of OCMA and may be reproduced in print or electronic format as educational materials and/or exhibits.

### DIVISIONS

Divisions will be determined after the entry deadline. In most categories, entrants will compete in two separate divisions determined by school size. If a category has two or fewer entries, the divisions may be combined.

### CONTEST WEBSITE

Submit entries at [betternewspapercontest.com/OCMA](http://betternewspapercontest.com/OCMA).

The publication's password is "bnc" when you first log in, and you'll be asked to change it before submitting an entry. Be sure to update your contact information in the system so that you receive the emailed instructions to confirm your account after you've submitted two entries. Contact Lisa Sutliff if you need assistance.

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### PAYMENT

Entry fees should be paid at the conclusion of entry submission or you may request an invoice.

#### Payment Options:

(a) Pay online with a credit card or debit card via Paypal (Paypal account not required). Look for the payment link on your account homepage at [betternewspapercontest.com/OCMA](http://betternewspapercontest.com/OCMA).

(b) Mail a check (payable to OPA) to OCMA, Attn: Lisa Sutliff, 3601 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73105.

(c) Request an invoice by email to [Lsutliff@okpress.com](mailto:Lsutliff@okpress.com) when you know your total number of entries.

### AWARDS

Judges may award first through third place winners in each category.

### ENTRY PREPARATION

Entries should be submitted as a single file (PDF or JPG, etc.) or website URL. A website URL should be a direct link to the specific entry. Detailed instructions of how to upload entries are provided in the Instruction Guide.

- For uploaded files, the maximum file size allowed is 5 MB. Larger files should be reduced or uploaded to a third-party site, such as GoogleDrive or Dropbox. If you cannot upload PDFs, please contact OPA at 405-499-0040 or 1-888-815-2672.

- If an entry is comprised of multiple PDF pages, combine all pages into a single PDF file. This makes it easier for the judge to review your entry.

### HEADLINES/TITLES

When submitting your entries, please list the headline of a story or the subject or headline of a photo in the Headline/Title field.

### ALTERING CONTENT

Entries should not be manipulated nor created, in whole or in part, by AI (artificial intelligence). All submitted content must be as it originally appeared in print or online, with the exception of color correction of photographs for print purposes.

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

For clarification of rules or assistance, contact Lisa Sutliff at (405) 499-0040 or 1-888-815-2672 (toll-free in Oklahoma) or [LSutliff@okpress.com](mailto:LSutliff@okpress.com).

# CONTEST CATEGORIES

## 1. GENERAL NEWS STORY

A single news article on a news event or issue. Maximum three entries per school; one entry per writer. Feel free to include notes to add context to any entry.

## 2. BREAKING NEWS

News coverage filed immediately after a news event. May include stories that are updated as news develops. Maximum three entries per school; one entry per writer. Feel free to include notes to add context to any entry.

## 3. FEATURE/PERSONALITY PROFILE

A story about a person or a feature about a trend, business, organization, etc. Sports features/profiles not eligible. Maximum three entries per school; one entry per writer. Feel free to include notes to add context to any entry.

## 4. IN-DEPTH REPORTING

A well developed story or series beyond routine news coverage. A series may be include up to 5 articles on the same topic. Reporters might make use of databases, open records requests, past reporting or other research. Should include a description of the reporting process. Sports stories may be included in this category. Maximum of two entries per school; one entry per writer. Feel free to include notes to add context to any entry.

## 5. SPORTS GAME COVERAGE

Coverage of a single collegiate athletic event; although it does not need to be a traditional game story. Features tied to a game or a bigger-picture “what does it mean” stories can apply here, as long as a game is the impetus for the story. Maximum three entries per school; one entry per writer. Feel free to include notes to add context to any entry.

## 6. SPORTS FEATURE/ PERSONALITY PROFILE

A feature about an individual athlete or coach or coverage of a storyline within a team, etc. Maximum three entries per school; one entry per writer. Feel free to include notes to add context to any entry.

## 7. SPORTS COLUMN

A sports column on any topic. Maximum three entries per school; one entry per writer. Feel free to include notes to add context to any entry.

## 8. EDITORIAL

Written by an individual as a representative of an editorial board. An editorial addresses an issue related to the school or an issue that affects or interests students. Preference will be given to editorials that take a clear side and are researched beyond a simple opinion. Maximum three entries per school; one entry per writer. Feel free to include notes to add context to any entry.

## 9. PERSONAL COLUMN

A non-sports column on any topic. A column is content that expresses a writer’s own personal opinion or experience. It is usually written in first person and may be humorous or serious. Maximum three entries per school; one entry per writer. Feel free to include notes to add context to any entry.

## 10. REVIEW

A personal commentary of a film, music release, TV show, concert, play or any other art. Maximum two entries per school; one entry per writer. Feel free to include notes to add context to any entry.

## 11. NEWS PHOTO

A photo from any news event. Maximum three entries per school; one entry per photographer. Feel free to include notes to add context to any entry.

## 12. SPORTS PHOTO

A sports photo from a game/live event. Maximum three entries per school; one entry per photographer. Feel free to include notes to add context to any entry.

## 13. FEATURE PHOTO

A photo shot specifically to accompany a feature. Maximum three entries per school; one entry per photographer. Feel free to include notes to add context to an entry.

## 14. FRONT PAGE DESIGN

A single front page from any printed or print replica edition. Maximum two entries per school; one entry per designer. Feel free to include notes to add context.

## 15. OVERALL SECTION DESIGN

Design for any print or print replica section. This can include news, sports, entertainment/lifestyle or a special section/edition. One entry per school. Feel free to include notes to add context to any entry.

## 16. OVERALL WEBSITE

Submit main URL plus any additional specific webpages you want to call attention to. Screenshots are also allowed. One entry per school. Feel free to include notes to add context.

## 17. MULTIMEDIA REPORTING

Any reporting that is entirely audio/video or which supplements a written story. This may include podcast episodes, hosted video programming, etc. Maximum two entries per school; one entry per reporter.

**DEADLINE: ENTER ONLINE BY MONDAY, FEB. 16, 2026**