

# 2021 CMA Student Journalism Awards



## Awards Highlights

- One Free Entry: Best Student Publication
- Feedback on each entry from industry professionals; winners receive certificates
- Three grand prizes valued at \$500 each
- Easy to use online entry process
- Exclusive content including webinars through our [YouTube](#) channel
- Accepting entries October 5, 2020 – February 8, 2021

September 1, 2021

Dear Student:

Allow us to provide you with a professional critique of your work and introduce you to hundreds of journalism and communication professionals.

Whether you are a writer, graphic designer, video specialist or a social media expert, our judges view each entry as if it were being submitted to an editor for submission into a publication, and each entry receives a beneficial critique from a judge.

This is the perfect competition for students invested in career planning. Award winners earn recognition that enhance resumes, and sometimes earn internships while still in school.

The FIRST-PLACE winner of Best Single Story, Best Current Events Affecting Student Life- YouTube and Best Single Photo receive a grand prize of \$500.

Entry into the Best Student Publication category is free. All other categories are just \$18. Please check with your organization to find out if funding is available to support your participation.

*"To me, this award represents my success in reaching that audience and getting the idea on the minds of more people, which could help my success thrive and change the lives of many people struggling with mental health. I believe my work fits in with the program because the Catholic Press Association had to overcome many challenges before getting to where it is today. Over time, people have struggled to explain and defend the Catholic Church to others who were opposed to it. This struggle still occurs today, and the CMA helps overcome these challenges through everything that it does, like professional development, college students, networking opportunities, and award programs just like this one."*

**Brianna Lopez, Barry College, Miami, FL  
Grand prize winner 2019**

We hope you accept this opportunity to further your career, we know you'll find the experience rewarding.

Thank you for considering the Catholic Press Association's *Student Journalism Awards*.

Sincerely,



Tim Walter  
Executive Director  
The Catholic Press Association of the United States and Canada

**Participate ♦ Win ♦ Succeed**

## HIGHLIGHTS

**CONTEST DATES:** October 5, 2020 – February 8, 2021  
**WINNER ANNOUNCEMENTS:** May 15, 2021  
**CATHOLIC MEDIA CONFERENCE:** JUNE 15-JUNE 18, 2021

### RECOGNITION:

Winners receive a first-, second-, or third-place certificate; the university receives a duplicate. Winners are acknowledged at the June Catholic Media Conference, listed in the annual award issue of the *Catholic Journalist*, and posted on the CMA Awards website, providing a historical record of their accomplishment.

### NEW:

**There are three cash prizes valued at \$500. The first-place winning entrant of S05, S06 and S41d, receives a first-place certificate, and a grand prize of \$500.**

### CATEGORIES:

Three groups of categories recognize emerging talent in eleven skill sets.

PUBLICATIONS	LITERARY WORKS	BROADCAST MEDIA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Design</li><li>▪ Faith</li><li>▪ Media</li><li>▪ Photography</li><li>▪ Writing</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Poetry</li><li>▪ Short Stories</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Blogs</li><li>▪ Radio</li><li>▪ Television</li><li>▪ YouTube</li></ul>








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## Additional Background Information

The Catholic Press Association, founded in 1911, sponsors the Student Journalism Awards to promote professional journalism and communication practices. Its 230 publications have a circulation of more than 10 million households. Its 860 members are general managers, editors, writers, graphic designers, production staff, freelance contributors, communication professionals, and advertising specialists.

Instituted to nurture the next generation of Catholic communication professionals, this program is part of a national program accepting more than 3000 entries per cycle.

## QUESTIONS

If you have questions about the CMA Student Awards or the Catholic Press Association, we are happy to talk with you. Please email us at [cpaawards@catholicpress.org](mailto:cpaawards@catholicpress.org). Our website is [www.catholicpress.org](http://www.catholicpress.org).

## **CATEGORIES & DESCRIPTIONS**

### **Student Publications**

For Print and Digital Publications

#### **Design**

##### **S01: Best Front Page**

Judging is based on typography, headline weight, compelling use of graphics, and the degree to which the layout draws the eye over the entire page. An entry consists of one PDF file of the front page only (not the entire issue). Only one entry per publication is permitted.

##### **S02: Best Use of Graphics with an Article**

This category focuses on the graphics used specifically on a single page or spread accompanying an article. Judges view the graphics with an eye toward design and how it was used to convey a story or theme and make the page/spread appealing to readers. An entry consists of one PDF file of the page.

#### **Faith**

##### **S03: Best Presentation of Faith on Campus.**

This category is for original content about faithlife on campus. Judges consider the quality and impact of the submission. An entry consists of one PDF file or URL where the content may be viewed by judges. Video submissions run less than 10 minutes.

**S03a: Single Article**

**S03b: Single Photo**

**S03c: Single Video**

#### **Media**

##### **S04: Best use of Multimedia for Storytelling**

Best use of photo galleries, videos, and other online resources to enhance a publication's online presentation of a story or stories. An entry consists of the webpage URL where judges may view the presentation.

#### **Photography**

##### **S05: Best Single Photo \***

**NEW**

Photos may be black- and-white or color. This category is separated into two sections for those working with either digital or film formats. Manipulated images may be submitted only if they were identified as such when published. An entry consists of one PDF file containing the page on which the photo was published, and a second PDF file containing an image of the photo by itself.

**\* The winning entrant of S05 receives a first-place certificate and a grand prize of \$500.**

## Writing

### **S06: Best Feature Writing**

**UPDATED**

This category emphasizes the skill of the writer covering a topic. Judges critique the quality and conciseness of the work as well as the writer's ability to convey the message. Sidebars may be included; photos, charts and illustrations are not considered. An entry consists of one PDF file or URL where the content may be viewed by judges.

**\* The winning entrant of S06 receives a first-place certificate, and a grand prize of \$500.**

### **S07: Best Writing – Single Story**

**UPDATED**

This category is for best single story published in a university publication. The article may be published in print or online.

Submit a PDF file or URL where articles can be located through the awards website. Publication date must be visible on submission.

### **S08: Best Writing – Series**

**UPDATED**

This category is for best series published in a university publication. The entry must be three articles. The articles may be published in print or online. The entire series must be consecutive and published within 2020.

Submit a PDF file or URL where articles can be located through the awards website. Publication date must be visible on submission.

### **S15: Best example of Teaching of the Church**

**NEW**

This category features the work of students and their involvement in any teaching of the church, such as human dignity, rights and responsibilities, and solidarity. The work may be from 2020 or cover a span of years, but must be published in 2020.

An entry consists of one PDF file containing the page(s) on which the article was published.

### **S18: Best Critical Review**

**NEW**

This category features a student's critical review. Types of entries include: literary creative writing, movie reviews, plays, musicals, and restaurants. These events can occur on or off campus.

An entry consists of one PDF file containing the page(s) on which the article was published. Article may be accompanied with picture(s).

## General Excellence

### **S21: Best University Student Publication**

The General Excellence Award recognizes the Best University Student Publication. Judges consider the following criteria: selection of stories, originality, quality of writing and headlines, columns, editorials and letters to the editor, quality and appropriateness of art and graphics, and overall design.

Entry consists of a PDF of three consecutive issues of the publication, or a URL where the publications can be viewed.

## *Literary Works*

### **S31: Best Literary Work**

**NEW**

This category is for the best single literary work, fiction piece, or speech authored by a student and published in 2020. Publication must be in any college or university sanctioned publication or collection of literary works whether in print or digital format.

An entry consists of one PDF file of the page(s) on which the work was published.

### **S32: Best Short Story**

This category is for the best single short story authored by a student and published in 2020 in any college or university sanctioned publication or collection of literary works whether in print or digital format. An entry consists of one PDF file of the page(s) on which the short story was published.

## *Broadcast Media*

### **S41: Hot Topic- Current Events Affecting Student Life**

**NEW**

Each subcategory is for media content pertaining to current local or national events that have a direct impact on student life. All entries must be the original work of students and posted or broadcast in calendar year 2020.

#### **S41a: Blog**

This subcategory is for content posted on an officially sanctioned university or college blog site. An entry consists of permanent URL links for each entry submitted. Three to five blog entries must be submitted for judges to consider. The URL(s) must be embedded into a PDF document for uploading.

#### **S41b: Audio**

**UPDATED**

This subcategory is for content broadcast on a university or college radio station. An entry consists of one episode. Entries may be uploaded as an MP3 audio file, or as a URL embedded into a PDF document for uploading. This includes all pod cast works.

#### **S41c: Television**

This subcategory is for content broadcast on a university or college television station. An entry consists of one episode. The URL may direct the judge to a university website or You Tube channel. The URL must be embedded into a PDF document for uploading.

#### **S41d: YouTube Channel \***

**UPDATED**

This subcategory is for content posted on an officially sanctioned university or college You Tube channel. All content is specific to the You Tube channel differentiating it from category S41c for example. An entry consists of one episode. The URL must be embedded into a PDF document for uploading.

**\* The winning entrant of S41d receives a first-place certificate, and a grand prize of \$500.**

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## **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

The Student Journalism Awards recognize the efforts of current students with an interest in journalism and other media. The following criteria are required of all submissions:

- Eligible entries are restricted to work published by a university/college publication or posted on a university/college publication's website in calendar year 2020.
- Professors/advisors may enter the work of their students. Likewise, student editors may enter the work of their fellow students, as well as their own work.
- Submitters may enter the same work into more than one category, if applicable.
- Entries must be the original work of a student(s) enrolled in an accredited university or college at the time of publication.
  - The student may be full or part-time, either at the graduate or undergraduate level.
  - Submitter must be able to provide proof of enrollment for author(s)/creator(s) upon request.
  - Editing/proofing from a professor or advisor is acceptable as long as it does not affect the viewpoint or style of the student author(s)/creator(s).

### **DISQUALIFICATION:**

- Plagiarized entries or those excessively influenced by a professor/advisor are disqualified.
- Work published outside of the university/college publication is disqualified.
- Submissions that do not meet all regulations and deadlines are disqualified.

### **LACK OF SUBMISSIONS:**

If a category receives only one submission, the category is not judged and the submission fee is refunded.

### **JUDGING:**

Current members of the Catholic Press Association judge the Student Journalism Awards. Judges volunteer their time and are instructed to provide critiques for all submissions for the benefit of student participants. If a judge disqualifies an entry for any reason, the judge is required to inform the CMA's awards coordinator, who informs the submitter.

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## **SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS**

### **GETTING STARTED:**

All entries are submitted digitally through the CMA awards website, <https://catholicpress.secure-platform.com/a/organizations/main/home>. To start, participants may log into an existing profile from a previous year, or create a new profile. Once logged in you are able to create and edit submissions, and pay for entries.

Please read category descriptions to determine submission requirements for each category. If you have questions about eligibility, submissions, or payment, please visit our [Student Journalism Awards web-page](#). If you need further assistance, please email [cpaawards@catholicpress.org](mailto:cpaawards@catholicpress.org).

### **CREATING A PROFILE:**

To register a new profile, visit the homepage of the awards website and click “Enter the Student Journalism Awards.” Follow the prompts to create a username and password for your account.

**If you participated in the awards program in a previous year, then you already have a profile.** Please enter your email and password to access your profile. If you do not remember your password you may click [reset password](#) to make a new one.

### **CREATING A NEW SUBMISSION:**

1. Either create your profile or log into your existing profile.
2. Click “Make Another Application” then “Enter Student Journalism Awards.” You will be prompted to review your past submissions or to begin a new submission.
3. Select “Click here” to begin a new submission. Fill out the form as prompted and click “Save and Next” to continue. You can return to the previous form at any time.
4. At the end of the form, you have a few options:
5. Clicking “Save” and leaving the form saves your submission as “Incomplete.” You may return to the entry later, edit data, and complete the entry.
6. Clicking “Add To Cart” saves your data and puts your submission in your cart. You can return to the entry later and pay for it, edit the data, or remove it from your cart.
7. Entries are only marked “Complete” after you pay for them. You will not be able to edit a “complete” entry by yourself. Email [cpaawards@catholicpress.org](mailto:cpaawards@catholicpress.org) so we can edit the entry for you. **We recommend keeping submissions in your cart until you have created and reviewed all of your submissions.** Doing so will help prevent duplicate, missing, and incorrect entries.
8. You can view submissions that are incomplete, in your cart, and complete by clicking “My Applications.” To edit submissions that are incomplete, click “Edit” in the action column. For entries in your cart, click “Make Changes.” If you need to make changes to a complete entry (an entry that you have paid for), email [cpaawards@catholicpress.org](mailto:cpaawards@catholicpress.org). We can edit entries for you up to the submission deadline, February 8, 2020.

## **ENTRY FEE AND PAYMENT PROCESS**

### **COST OF SUBMISSION:**

- Best Student Publication: Free
- All additional Entries: \$18 per entry \*
- **Payment Deadline: February 12, 2021**

\* **Please** check in with your professor or advisor to find out if funding is available to support your participation.

## **PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS**

### **READY TO CHECKOUT**

1. When items are in your cart, a direct link to your cart will appear under “My Applications.” Click the link to edit submissions or pay for your entries.
2. When ready, click the “Checkout” button to select your method of payment, then click “Process”
3. The next screen allows you to print your invoice and submission forms

### **PAYMENT OPTIONS**

- A. Online Credit Card: Enter the information and complete the transaction
- B. Pay by Check: Please include a copy of your invoice with your payment

#### **MAIL PAYMENT TO:**

**CMA Awards Program**  
Catholic Media Association  
205 West Monroe St., Suite 470  
Chicago, IL 60606

- C. Credit Card by Phone: Use this option if you prefer not to pay online or by check
- Call 312-405-8664. This is a dedicated answering system for award payments
  - Please speak clearly and slowly as you leave the following information:
    - Your name
    - Your contact phone number or email
    - Name of participating organization or individual
    - Name on credit card
    - Credit card number
    - Credit card billing address
    - Credit card expiration date
    - Credit card security code

**Good luck and  
thank you for participating**

### **ENTRY DEADLINE:**

**11:59 p.m. CT – Monday, February 8, 2021**