

Senior Award Checklist/Portfolio Instructions

Note: We are no longer accepting award applications by mail. Instead, please create an online portfolio that includes all necessary application materials and email the link to said portfolio to aspa@ua.edu by Jan. 31, 2017.

Checklist:

- Official transcript, which you should email as a PDF to aspa@ua.edu (**Note:** Your transcript should **not** be included in your online portfolio)
- Link to online portfolio containing all necessary application materials, which you will email to aspa@ua.edu:
 - [Entry form](#)
 - Letter explaining which award you are applying for
 - A self-analytical evaluation of your "journalistic life" using your most creative form
 - 3 letters of recommendation
 - Samples of your work carefully selected to show your quality and diversity of reporting, writing, photography, design, broadcasting, etc.
 - Personal photo

Applicant Qualifications:

- Must be a graduating high school senior
- Must be planning to study journalism and/or mass communications in college and to pursue a journalism and mass communications career
- Must have at least a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale
- Must have participated in high school journalism for at least two years

Deadlines:

All award entries should be submitted via email to aspa@ua.edu and with a link to the applicant's online portfolio by Jan. 31, 2017.

Preparing Your Portfolio:

- [Entry form](#)
- Personal photo: This photo should be a professional-looking shot of the applicant in the highest available resolution
- Self-analytical essay:
 - The evaluation should be long enough for the judges to reach a decision as to your creative qualifications and short enough to avoid being redundant.
 - Here are some questions to help you get started on the self-analytical evaluation:
 - How do you feel about journalism?
 - How did you get started in journalism?
 - What have you contributed to journalism?

- What have you had to go through to achieve?
 - What are your plans for the future pertaining to journalism?
- All recommendation letters should be included as part of your online portfolio.
- Samples of work should be carefully selected. Provide judges with a good cross section of your best work rather than everything ever produced. Date, name of publication and relevance should be on the page with each sample.
 - At least one issue of your newspaper or magazine or photocopies of relevant spreads from your yearbook (not the entire book) should be included as PDFs so the judges can see the context of your work.
 - Broadcast portfolios should include linked or embedded samples of the applicant's best broadcast work. Time is limited to 15 minutes. This section of the portfolio should only include the work that the judges should view or hear.
 - Include samples showing one or more of the following characteristics: (They should be grouped according to what they represent, and these groupings should be labeled.)
 1. Skilled and creative use of media content - writing, production, photography, etc.
 2. Inquiring mind and investigative persistence resulting in in-depth study or studies of issues important to the local high school audience, high school students in general or society.
 3. Courageous and responsible handling of sensitive issues — local or societal — despite threat or imposition of censorship.
 4. Variety of journalistic experiences, each handled in a quality manner — newspaper, yearbook, broadcast, photography, web design, other design work, community and other outside-of-school journalistic work, etc.
- Photocopies of letters, clippings and art are acceptable; however, original prints of photographs should accompany entries based on published pictures.

For more information, check out last year's [National High School Journalist of the Year, Julia Poe](#).