

PULITZER PRIZES

Deadline is February 1 (postmark accepted)

Fourteen Prizes for Journalistic Excellence

Each spring, the Pulitzer Prizes in Journalism are awarded in fourteen categories by Columbia University on the recommendation of the Pulitzer Prize Board. The prizes are awarded for outstanding journalism during the previous calendar year ending December 31. Juries of distinguished journalists are appointed in each category. They are asked to submit three nominations to the Pulitzer Board, which is charged with the responsibility and authority under the will of Joseph Pulitzer to select, accept, substitute or reject the nominations of the jurors.

Entries for journalism awards must be based on material coming from a text-based United States newspaper or news site that publishes at least weekly during the calendar year and that adheres to the highest journalistic principles. Magazines and broadcast media, and their respective Web sites, are not eligible. (See Q & A on next page for more details).

The Pulitzer Board seeks to recognize journalistic excellence in whatever format best conveys the story and demonstrates that excellence. Original reporting and, where appropriate, a high quality of writing and visual storytelling will be important criteria. In twelve of the fourteen categories, entries may include a variety of formats: text, video, multimedia and other visual storytelling methods. In the other two categories -- Breaking News Photography and Feature Photography -- entries are restricted to still images.

The categories are:

1. For a distinguished example of meritorious public service by a newspaper or news site through the use of its journalistic resources which, as well as reporting, may include editorials, cartoons, photographs, graphics, videos, databases, multimedia or interactive presentations or other visual material, presented in print or online or both, a gold medal.

2. For a distinguished example of local reporting of breaking news, with special emphasis on the speed and accuracy of the initial coverage, using any available journalistic tool, including text reporting, videos, databases, multimedia or interactive presentations or any combination of those formats, in print or online or both, Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

3. For a distinguished example of investigative reporting by an individual or team, presented as a single article or series, using any available journalistic tool, including text reporting, videos, databases, multimedia or interactive presentations or any combination of those formats, in print or online or both, Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

4. For a distinguished example of explanatory reporting that illuminates a significant and complex subject, demonstrating mastery of the subject, lucid writing and clear presentation, using any available journalistic tool, including text reporting, videos, databases, multimedia or interactive presentations or any combination of those formats, in print or online or both, Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

5. For a distinguished example of reporting on significant issues of local concern, demonstrating originality and community expertise, using any available journalistic tool, including text reporting, videos, databases, multimedia or interactive presentations or any combination of those formats, in print or online or both, Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

6. For a distinguished example of reporting on national affairs, using any available journalistic tool, including text reporting, videos, databases, multimedia or interactive presentations or any combination of those formats, in print or online or both, Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

7. For a distinguished example of reporting on international affairs, using any available journalistic tool, including text reporting,

videos, databases, multimedia or interactive presentations or any combination of those formats, in print or online or both, Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

8. For a distinguished example of feature writing giving prime consideration to quality of writing, originality and concision, using any available journalistic tool, including text reporting, videos, databases, multimedia or interactive presentations or any combination of those formats, in print or online or both, Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

9. For distinguished commentary, using any available journalistic tool, including text reporting, videos, databases, multimedia or interactive presentations or any combination of those formats, in print or online or both, Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

10. For distinguished criticism, using any available journalistic tool, including text reporting, videos, databases, multimedia or interactive presentations or any combination of those formats, in print or online or both, Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

11. For distinguished editorial writing, the test of excellence being clearness of style, moral purpose, sound reasoning, and power to influence public opinion in what the writer conceives to be the right direction, using any available journalistic tool, including text reporting, videos, databases, multimedia or interactive presentations or any combination of those formats, in print or online or both, Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

12. For a distinguished cartoon or portfolio of cartoons, characterized by originality, editorial effectiveness, quality of drawing and pictorial effect, in print or online or both, Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

13. For a distinguished example of breaking news photography in black and white or color which may consist of a photograph or photographs, in print or online or both, Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

14. For a distinguished example of feature photography in black and white or color, which may consist of a photograph or photographs, in print or in print or online or both, Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

Send all entries by February 1 to: Pulitzer Prize Office, 709 Journalism, 2950 Broadway, Mail Code 3865, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027. Additional entry forms may be obtained by contacting the office at 212-854-3841, or online at www.pulitzer.org. Checks should be made payable to "Columbia University /Pulitzer Prizes."

How to Submit an Entry for a Pulitzer Prize in Journalism

Any individual may submit material coming from eligible United States newspapers or news sites, publishing in print or online. The entries should reflect what a reader saw and experienced.

No more than three entries may be made by the editors of a single newspaper, wire service, syndicate or other eligible news site in any one category and the same content cannot be entered in more than two categories. Up to five individuals may be named on a team entry; they should be the strongest contributors to the work, whether they are text reporters, photographers, videographers, graphic artists, producers or journalists who have worked in more than one format on the submitted entry. If the entry requires more than five specific names, it should be in the name of the staff.

While many eligible entities submit the work of staff members, entries may also be made by readers or an interested individual.

In twelve of the fourteen categories, entries may include a variety of formats: text, video, multimedia and other visual storytelling methods. In the other two categories -- Breaking News and Feature Photography -- entries are restricted to still images.

How many items can be entered in each category? Most have ten, a few have twenty and one has five. Here's the breakdown:

Public Service entries may have up to twenty items, including editorials, cartoons, photographs, graphics, videos, interactive graphics, databases or blogs.

The Cartoon, Breaking News Photography and Feature Photography

categories can have up to twenty items.

Cartoons may include still or animated entries. Breaking News Photography and Feature Photography must be still images.

Feature Writing entries are limited to five items.

All other categories -- Breaking News Reporting, Investigative Reporting, Explanatory Reporting, Local Reporting, National Reporting, International Reporting, Commentary are limited to ten.

In any category, online material must be published on an eligible Web site during the calendar year and, when submitted, must depict its original publication on the Web, not its subsequent update or alteration. URLs should be brief and must remain active during the judging period.

The entry's summary letter should describe the online material submitted, and the entry should include a legible representation of the material, such as screen shots. Any visual, multimedia or other online item in an entry should be numbered as one of the entry's items and should state the active URL for viewing.

Each entry must be accompanied by an exhibit, in scrapbook form, of published material, including the URLs for online elements, the name of the newspaper or eligible news site and date of an item's publication. In addition, a biography and picture of any individual journalist involved should be part of the entry. Each entry must also include a one or two-page cover letter that demonstrates the entry's compliance with eligibility criteria and summarizes its content; the letter is especially important in the reporting categories.

Each entry must be accompanied by a

completed entry form and a nonrefundable handling fee of \$50. Each entry must be marked to show the category in which it is submitted. Every entry form must include a one-sentence description of the submitted work and the appropriate box should be checked if online material is part of the entry. Duplicate entry material must be provided if the same content is entered in two different categories.

All entries must be presented in scrapbooks or binders measuring no more than 12 x 17 inches. Each article or online element within the entry must be isolated for the jury as a separate exhibit and the type size must be at least as large as originally used. Legibility is essential. If a full newspaper page is required to make clear the scope and impact of the material entered, it should be appended as a supplement to the individual exhibits and should be reduced in size to fit within the 12 x 17 scrapbook or binder. No fold-out pages should be submitted. Every entry must conform to the stated limits on size and number of submitted items before it can be given jury consideration.

Any significant challenge to the honesty, accuracy or fairness of an entry, such as published letters, corrections, retractions, as well as responses by the newspaper, should be included in the submission.

In the photography categories, no entry whose content is manipulated or altered, apart from standard cropping and editing, will be deemed acceptable.

Sponsors of entries are urged not to crowd the official deadline, which is February 1.

Q & A

Q: What's different about this year's competition? A. Two things. First, the Pulitzer Board has strongly affirmed its intent to honor the best journalism from eligible news organizations regardless of format. That means the Board and its juries consider text, video, audio slideshows or other multimedia or visual journalism in twelve of the fourteen categories. The board also intends to honor the best of still-image photojournalism in the other two categories, Breaking News and Feature Photography.

Second, glossy prints are no longer accepted in the two Photography categories. Instead, digital images should be submitted on a separate CD or DVD with other supporting material (see details in "Preparing an Entry").

Q: Who is eligible? A. Under rules revised last year, material entered in the Pulitzer competition must derive from a

Important Overview

"text-based United States newspaper or news site that publishes at least weekly and that adheres to the highest journalistic principles." Magazines and broadcast media, and their respective Web sites, are not eligible. Traditional printed newspapers and their Web sites are basically unaffected by the change. Entrants submitting material from online-only newspapers or news sites should (1) ask themselves if the entities genuinely fit the criteria and (2) demonstrate eligibility in the entry's cover letter. If we have questions about online-only entries, we will ask entrants to verify the validity of their status. As needed, eligibility will be determined case by case.

Q: What is a "news site"? How does it differ from a newspaper? A. We mean United States entities ranging from a traditional wire service to online ventures that do not call themselves newspapers but

do publish news, opinion and other information of public interest. Whatever their platform, eligible entrants can include a full range of online material in their submissions.

Q: Can you give examples of online-only newspapers or news sites that would qualify? A. Last year, sites such as MinnPost, Voice of San Diego, Chicago News Cooperative, ProPublica and Climate Wire participated in the competition.

Q: What do you mean by "the highest journalistic principles"? A. We mean values such as honesty, accuracy and fairness, values that govern the way news is gathered and the way it is presented.

Q: Why are printed magazines and broadcast media and their Web sites excluded? A. Since their creation in 1917, the Pulitzer Prizes have been awarded

exclusively for newspaper journalism. The growth of text-based online publications is in many ways an extension of the newspaper tradition. Moreover, magazines and broadcast media have long had their own contests.

Q: Is an online-only site eligible if it calls itself a “magazine” or “news magazine”? No. Self-designated magazines are ineligible.

Q: If one or two people call their Web site a “newspaper” or “news site” would it be eligible? A. Possibly, if all the other

Q. Have entry procedures changed in recent years? A. Yes.

Most important, the competition has been expanded to include text-based United States news entities that publish only on the Internet. Further, entries composed entirely of online content may now be submitted in all categories. But remember that rules for specific categories can vary so review all of them carefully.

Q. What kind of an entry do you want? A. An entry should be clear and concise, allowing any juror to see quickly what you did, why you did it and what you accomplished. Entries must be presented in scrapbooks or binders measuring no more than 12 x 17 inches with each story or online element in the exhibit isolated in a legible type-size at least as large as originally used.

Q. Should items in the entry be numbered? A. Yes. Each item must be clearly numbered and the number of items must not exceed the total permitted in each category.

Q. How should print material be submitted? A. Original clips or photocopies of original material are acceptable. You may also reformat a story’s original and unaltered electronic type so the material fits better on a 12 x 17 scrapbook page. Do not attach fold-out full newspaper pages. In all cases, the material should bear the date and name of the newspaper or eligible news organization.

Q. How should online material be submitted? A. Two main ways. First, the standard 12 x 17 format should include a printed representation of the online material, such as a screen shot, with the URL, a date, time stamp and the name of the newspaper or eligible news site. Online stories and other online elements that can be easily printed out should be displayed in whole for jurors in scrapbooks. Secondly, online material must be available on an active URL that shows the material as it was published. The URL should be brief (no more than 25

criteria are satisfied. But to compete effectively, an entry would have to demonstrate a high level of quality.

Q. How important is reporting in an entry? A. In its reporting categories, the Pulitzer Board places special emphasis on original news reporting, which entails such techniques as interviewing, first-hand observation, reviewing public records, taking photos and shooting videos.

Q: What happens to freelance journalists? A. Freelance reporters, cartoonists, columnists, critics or bloggers

Preparing an Entry

characters) and directions to that URL must be submitted with the entry; if necessary, the entry should include a username and password. You are responsible for making sure the URL works from “outside” your organization.

Q. Should an entry include a CD or DVD containing the online material? A. In the Photography categories, submission must be on a CD or DVD. In other categories, a CD or DVD is encouraged as a viewing option, especially with video presentations. The disk should be formatted for Windows and secured in a sleeve attached to the entry. The content should be identical to the original material that appeared on the news entity’s Web site. However, a live URL must still be part of the entry.

Q. Should a PDF version of the entire entry be included? A. While not required, we strongly encourage it as a viewing option. The disk should be in a sleeve attached to the entry.

Q. Must an entry contain material that has been published in the newspaper’s print edition? A. No, but a combination of print and online elements may be submitted. (See tip sheet on preparing a combined entry.)

Q. What size should an entry be? A. Entries should be presented in scrapbooks or binders measuring no more than 12 x 17 inches. Jurors complain about scrapbooks and binders that are over-sized and unnecessarily heavy. Entries should include no more than ten articles or editorials, except in the Public Service, Cartoon and Photography categories where twenty articles, cartoons or pictures are acceptable, and in the Feature Writing category where the limit is five articles.

Q. Are sidebars considered separate articles? A. Yes. Any sidebar submitted will be counted as an article.

Q. What happens if an entry’s permissible number of items is exceeded? A. The permissible number of items shall be considered in chronological

order and the jury will be instructed to ignore the rest.

who produce work in print or online can enter the competition if their submitted work has been published by an eligible newspaper or news site during the calendar year. Freelancers have won Pulitzer Prizes.

Q: Will the Board continue to change the eligibility rules? A. We don’t speculate about changes. However, the Board periodically alters the rules to reflect meaningful changes in how journalism is produced and presented.

Q. Are additional clips, testimonial letters or other supporting material acceptable? A. Under the label of “supplemental,” a reasonable amount of additional material is permitted only to show the results achieved by the work. If the scope or impact of the entered material depended to an important degree on layout, graphics, online elements or sheer volume of coverage, screen-shots or copies of the newspaper pages in which the content appeared are also acceptable. But any newspaper page must be reduced to fit within the 12 x 17 format. Genuine testimonial letters or pieces that other news organizations have done about your work are permitted, but in general supporting material should be kept to a minimum.

Q. What about challenges to entries? A. Any significant challenge to the honesty, accuracy or fairness of an entry should be noted in the entry’s cover letter and relevant published letters, corrections, retractions, as well as responses by the news organization, should be included in the submission.

Q. Why do you want a summary letter at the beginning of the entry? A. Two purposes. One is to demonstrate the eligibility of the entry. The other is to acquaint jurors with the work. The letter should not exceed two pages.

Q. May I submit the same entry in more than one category? A. The same material may be entered in two—but not more than two—different categories. A separate copy of your entry must be supplied for each of the two categories you enter. Where the permissible number of items in the two categories differs, you must prepare entries conforming to the requirements for each category. An added \$50 fee must be paid for each cross-file.

Q. How many entries may I submit in a single category? A. No more than three entries may be made by the editors of a single newspaper,

wire service, syndicate or eligible news entity in any one category. The term “editors” includes all titled editors. Individuals may submit entries on their own behalf.

Q. How many individuals may be named in a team entry? A. Up to five and they should be the strongest contributors. If more are involved, the entry must be in the name of the staff.

Q. How does the Public Service category differ from other categories? A. Public Service rewards total journalistic effort. An entry may include reporting, editorials, cartoons, photographs, video and other Web items. It must be made in the name of the eligible entity.

Q. Does the online material submitted in Public Service differ from the online material submitted in other categories? A. No. In all categories, each must be discretely designated and each will count as one item in the entry.

Q. What is an online element? A. It is a single, unified, discretely designated presentation. For example, it can be an online story, video, database, blog, interactive graphic or slide show. Each designated element will count as one item in the total number permitted in an entry. Edit your entry.

Q. How much online content can a single element contain? A. There is no limit. However, the burden on a jury should be kept in mind. An online element with multiple parts, such as a blog with manifold postings, should be a cohesive presentation. The conceptual logic tying the parts together should be clear. In their judging, jurors will look at multimedia material the way a viewer does, taking into account ease of navigation as well as quality of content.

Q. What about a large, multifaceted multimedia package on a single subject or event? A. If it has many elements integrated into a cohesive whole, it should be entered as a single entry in a category.

Q. Where does video belong? A. Video storytelling can be entered in all categories, except Photography where entries are restricted to still images. Usually video is part of an entry that contains other items, such as text stories or graphics, but an entry consisting entirely of video storytelling is permissible. Each separate video counts as one item in an entry.

Q. How does blogging fit in? A. Blogging can be entered in all writing and reporting categories. If submitted in reporting categories, such as Breaking News or National Reporting, the blogging should reflect original news reporting and/or news analysis. If blogging is essentially an expression of the writer’s opinions, it should be entered in Commentary or Criticism, where

distinguished work is welcomed regardless of format.

Q. How important is an entry’s “public impact”? A. The Board is interested in evidence of an entry’s impact, such as the spurring of legislative action or prosecution of lawbreakers. The Board is also interested in reader engagement as a gauge of impact – through letters, e-mails, Web site postings and other audience interaction.

Q. What kind of local stories belong in the Breaking News category? A. Stories on any local newsworthy event, provided that it is covered under deadline pressure and that the results are published—online or in print—immediately after the event occurs. Special emphasis is given to “the speed and accuracy of initial coverage.” Any online story must reflect work at the moment of Web publication, not as subsequently updated.

Q. What belongs in Explanatory Reporting? A. Any story or series that provides deeper understanding of a subject that is both significant and complex, enabling readers to put news about it into a meaningful context. We strongly advise against cross-filing into this category material that fits the definition only marginally. The jury will disregard an investigative, enterprise or feature story or series that falls short of the explanatory test.

Q. What belongs in Local Reporting? A. Robust reporting on significant city, regional or state issues, demonstrating original thinking, resourcefulness and an expert grasp of a community’s makeup, problems and concerns. Originality can include a fresh approach to a familiar issue, or the exploration of an unusual issue or concern. Entries may consist of a reporter’s body of sustained work as well as special projects; and the work’s impact can entail greater insight by readers as well as political change. An entry should begin with a descriptive letter offering context: why the reporting was done and how residents benefited. We discourage cross-filing of entries -- especially those also placed in Investigative Reporting -- that lack the strong “local reporting” envisaged by the category’s definition and guidelines.

Q. What belongs in Feature Writing? A. Stories that are not hard news and are distinguished by the quality of their writing. Stories should be memorable for their crafting, creativity and economy of expression. Entries may consist of a single significant story, a portfolio of stand-alone stories that reveals a body of work or a concise series of stories on a single topic.

Q. What belongs in the Criticism category? A. Critical work on such subjects as books, theater, television, movies, dance and architecture.

Q. What is the difference between Editorial Writing and Commentary? A. Editorials are written in the name of the newspaper or news entity. Columns represent the writer’s views.

Q. How do multimedia elements fit into “writing” categories, such as Feature Writing and Editorial Writing? A. While digital elements may be submitted to enhance an entry, juries will place primary emphasis on the quality of the writing.

Q. How should photo entries be submitted? A. Photographs will be judged digitally. Submit images, in JPEG format, on a separate CD or DVD attached to a scrapbook or binder that contains entry form, entry letter and other information. Proof of publication is required. Each image published in print must be accompanied by a clipping or photocopy of the newspaper page on which it originally appeared with date and caption. If online photos are submitted, they must be accompanied by a screenshot from the eligible Web site with date and caption. Online photos must accurately represent original publication, including decisions on cropping and toning.

Q. Are there technical requirements for photo submissions? A. Yes, there are several.

- Caption, byline and credit (name of news organization) should be in the standard IPTC fields.
- Only one image per JPEG. Do not include text of layouts in the image.
- File size: Images should not exceed 3600 pixels on the longest side of the image (18 inches at 200 dpi). The compressed JPEG file should not exceed 3 megabytes.
- Color profile: RGB
- Place all the images for one entry into a digital folder. Start your folder name with the letter to indicate the category – “N” for News and “F” for Feature, followed by the name of the individual entrant or news organization and a letter to designate it as entry A, B or C (depending on how many entries are submitted).
- Move JPEG files into folder, using a sequence of numbers – 01 to 20 – for the order in which images should be viewed. A file name should not exceed 22 characters in length. Use abbreviations that are recognizable.
- Example of entry folder naming
F_newsorg_A
- Example of JPEG file naming:
F_newsorg_A_01.jpg
F_newsorg_A_02.jpg
- Each entry should be on a separate disk and may consist of a single image or up to 20 individual images..
- See the Pulitzer Web site for a diagram. Go to www.pulitzer.org and click on “How to enter.”