

# THE PULITZER PRIZES

## Plan of Award

The Pulitzer Prizes and Fellowships, established in Columbia University by the will of the first Joseph Pulitzer, are awarded by the university on the recommendation of The Pulitzer Prize Board. The Board meets twice annually. The prizes are announced during the Spring.

Nominating Jurors for the prizes are appointed by the Board in each category. They are asked to judge independently and collectively, and to submit three nominations. Under Pulitzer's will, the Board is charged with the responsibility and authority to accept, substitute or reject these nominations, and may in extraordinary circumstances offer its own. Each Nominating Jury should submit to the Board three nominations in its category. These must be listed in alphabetical order. Each must include a statement as to why the jury believes it merits a Pulitzer Prize, without expressing a preference among the three.

### A. PRIZES IN JOURNALISM

The following awards will be made annually as Prizes in Journalism based on material coming from a 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.

In the Public Service category, the Pulitzer Prize Board recognizes the work of newspapers or eligible news sites; in all other categories, the work of individuals where possible. In all categories except cartoons and photography, the Board seeks a high quality of writing and original reporting and, in all categories, journalistic excellence across all formats, in print or online or both.

1. For a distinguished example of meritorious public service by a newspaper or news site through the use of its journalistic resources, including the use of stories, editorials, cartoons, photographs, graphics, videos, databases, multimedia or interactive presentations or other visual material, a gold medal.
2. For a distinguished example of local reporting of breaking news that, as quickly as possible, captures events accurately as they occur, and, as time passes, illuminates, provides context and expands upon the initial coverage, Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).
3. For a distinguished example of investigative reporting, using any available journalistic tool, 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, 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, Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).
6. For a distinguished example of reporting on national affairs, using any available journalistic tool, Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).
7. For a distinguished example of reporting on international affairs, using any available journalistic tool, 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, Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).
9. For distinguished commentary, using any available journalistic tool Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).
10. For distinguished criticism, using any available journalistic tool, 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, 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, published as a still drawing, animation 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, 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, Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

### **B. PRIZES IN LETTERS**

The following awards will be made annually as prizes in Letters. Except in the case of drama, where production rather than publication shall be the criterion, eligibility for these awards shall be restricted to works first published in the United States during the year and made available in hardcover or bound paperback form for purchase by the general public:

1. For distinguished fiction by an American author, preferably dealing with American life, Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

2. For a distinguished play by an American author, preferably original in its source and dealing with American life, Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

3. For a distinguished and appropriately documented book on the history of the United States, Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

4. For a distinguished and appropriately documented biography or autobiography by an American author, Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

5. For a distinguished volume of original verse by an American author, Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

6. For a distinguished and appropriately documented book of nonfiction by an American author that is not eligible for consideration in any other category, Ten thousand dollars, (\$10,000).

### **C. PRIZE IN MUSIC**

The following award will be made annually as a Prize in Music:

For distinguished musical composition by an American that has had its first performance or recording in the United States during the year, Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

### **D. FELLOWSHIPS**

The following fellowships will be awarded annually:

On the recommendation of the faculty of the Graduate School of Journalism, four fellowships of \$7,500 each to enable four of its outstanding graduates to travel, report and study abroad and one fellowship for \$7,500 to an outstanding graduate who wishes to specialize in drama, music, literary, film or television criticism.

### **E. RULES OF THE PLAN OF AWARD**

There are two methods of entry. Journalism entries must be submitted digitally through a Pulitzer entry site. Other entries for letters, drama and music must be submitted to the Administrator of The Pulitzer Prize Board, Mr. Sig Gissler, 709 Journalism, 2950 Broadway, Mail Code 3865, Columbia University, New York, N.Y. 10027. Entry forms for those categories can be found on the Pulitzer Web site [www.pulitzer.org](http://www.pulitzer.org).

The competition for prizes is limited to work done during the calendar year, ending December 31. Deadlines for entries differ. Journalism entries must be submitted on or before January 25 to cover work in the previous calendar year. Book entries must be submitted on or before June 15 of the year of publication in the case of books published between January 1 and June 14, and on or before October 1 in the case of books published between June 15 and December 31. For the drama prize, works produced in the United States from January 1 through December 31 are considered. For the music award, works given their American premiere in a public performance or in the public release of a recording during the twelve months from January 1 through December 31 are considered.

In the journalism awards, 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. The same content can be entered in no more than two categories. Up to five individuals may be named on a team entry and should be the strongest contributors to the work, whether they are reporters, photographers, videographers, producers or journalists who have worked in more than one format on the submitted entry. If the entry requires more than five names, it should be in the name of the staff.

What kind of work can be entered? In the two photo categories, the entries must be still photographs that have appeared online or in print. In all other journalism categories, we seek the best work in whatever format is most effective. Entries can be text or videos or audio slideshows or interactive graphics or other multimedia and visual journalism or any combination of those elements.

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 articles, running blogs, editorials, cartoons, photographs, graphics, videos, interactive graphics, multimedia projects or databases. 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, Criticism and Editorial Writing--can have up to ten items. Those items can be in any format that most clearly and powerfully tells the story, whether in text, video, multimedia, interactive, or any combination of those formats.

The judges seek to experience your work as your readers did. Please be concise and judicious in your choice of material, taking care not to stretch the definition of what constitutes a single item in an entry. Online material must be published on an eligible Web site during the calendar year.

In the photography categories, digital images should be submitted with other supporting material. No photographs may be manipulated or altered, apart from standard cropping or editing.

For the prizes in letters, four copies of each book published before June 15 shall be sent to the Administrator of The Pulitzer Prizes by June 14. Books published between June 15 and December 31 shall be submitted by October 1. Books scheduled for publication in October, November and December must be submitted no later than October 1 in galley proof. For the prize in drama, entries shall include six copies of the script; a videotape of the production is strongly urged but is not required. For the prize in music, an entry shall be accompanied by a recording; a score of the work is strongly urged but is not required.

All entries should include biographies and pictures of entrants and each entry in journalism, letters and music must be accompanied by a nonrefundable handling fee of \$50. Journalism entries should be paid online via credit card. Letters and music entries must include a check payable to Columbia University/Pulitzer Prizes. Winning entries will be included on The Pulitzer Prize archival Web site ([www.pulitzer.org](http://www.pulitzer.org)).

Any significant challenge to the honesty, accuracy or fairness of an entry in any category, as well as responses to the challenge, should be included in the submission. Published letters of complaint, corrections or retractions are examples of items relevant to the judging process. If in any year all the competitors in any category shall fail to gain a majority vote of the Pulitzer Prize Board, the prize or prizes may be withheld. Nothing in this plan shall be deemed to limit in any way the authority and control of the Pulitzer Prize Board. Except for members of the Pulitzer Prize Board, any author, composer or journalist, including previous winners, is eligible for consideration each year for any award.

## THE PULITZER PRIZE BOARD

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