



2025 IHSA VIRTUAL JOURNALISM SECTIONALS: **OVERVIEW**

SECTIONAL SCHEDULE

Date: Saturday, April 5

April 5 Schedule: Block A: 9:30 AM to 11 AM
Block B: 11:30 AM to 1 PM

Event Schedule:

Block A & B Events (9:30 AM – 1:00 PM) – Prompts Released early on March 31

1. Photo Story Telling
2. Video News (*April 3 to April 6 at 1:00 PM*)

Block A & B Events (9:30 AM – 1:00 PM)

3. Broadcast News
4. Yearbook Theme Development

Block A Events (9:30 AM – 11:00 AM)

5. News Writing
6. Review Writing
7. Advertising
8. Newspaper Design
9. Yearbook Caption Writing
10. Infographics
11. Copy Editing

Block B Events (11:30 AM to 1:00 PM)

12. Feature Writing
13. Headline Writing
14. Yearbook Copy Writing
15. Yearbook Layout: Double Page Spread
16. Editorial Cartooning
17. Editorial Writing
18. Sports Writing

Awards Ceremony: Monday, April 14 via Microsoft Teams...

Awards Schedule

Sectional 1	11:30 AM to 11:45 AM
Sectional 2	11:45 AM to Noon
Sectional 3	Noon to 12:15 PM
Sectional 4	12:15 PM to 12:30 PM
Sectional 5	12:30 PM to 12:45 PM
Sectional 6	12:45 PM to 1:00 PM
Sectional 7	1:00 PM to 1:15 PM



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STATE FINALS AWARDS

Awards: First, second and third-place winners receive awards in each event. Plaque provided to the team with the most points in each of the seven Sectionals.

PROTOCOLS & RULES

Advisor Role The advisors role in Sectionals is to make sure their students have accessed the prompts, relay any technological issues to the IHSA, and collect/submit finalized work to the IHSA via your team Google Doc Folder. Students should compete independently of their advisors. Advisors should not offer any advice, review work, note errors, etc. once the competition has begun. Advisors may review student work prior to submitting to IHSA, but may not alter the work. Advisors know their students and their work better than anyone else. If an advisor has any concerns that a student work may have been aided by AI (artificial intelligence) or another person, they should not submit it to the IHSA for judging.

Assignments Assignments for the seven Sectionals linked here: [Sectional Assignments](#)

Sectional Web Page A Sectional webpage has been setup, which will house prompts and other pertinent info. Sectional webpage linked here: [Sectional webpage](#)

Competitors: Students may compete from anywhere with internet access. Competing at your school is recommended if possible.

Equipment/Software: There are no limitations on the programs or software students may use to complete the design categories, this includes using their online yearbook software. If using a site like Canva, they must begin with a blank document. No premade Canva templates may be used. Microsoft word or a similar word processing program is recommended for writing events. Work will be submitted as PDFs in all applicable categories. Students & advisors are responsible to make sure that students have the proper equipment and software they require to compete in their respective events, and should consider the carryover from Sectionals to the State Finals should they advance.

Rules: All rules for each event are provided in the prompt and will be updated to reflect any subtle changes for the virtual format (i.e. the equipment/software mentioned above). Applicable prompts will also note that all info must be from the prompt and no further information may be gathered from the internet (unless allowed by the prompt). Failure to adhere will result in disqualification.

Prompts: Prompts will be posted on the Sectional Web Page at the start of the block and disappear at the deadline. Students will also be emailed a link and reminder.



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- Submitting Work:** Advisors are responsible for submitting their students' work via the Google Drive provided by the IHSA. Each advisor will be sent the Google Drive link via email. Advisors are asked to email Matt Troha (mtroha@ihsa.org) with any students who did not submit work on the day of competition. The IHSA will audit all of the submitted work and it saves us time from trying to track down work that was not completed. The IHSA will provide a Google Doc that will verify that a students' work has been accounted for.
- Trouble Shooting:** The IHSA will have a Microsoft Teams meeting ongoing live throughout the State Finals. Advisors will be invited to that meeting. Students will be directed to let their advisor know if they have any issues during the competition. Should troubles arise, advisors should first try to alert the IHSA via the live Teams meeting.
- Games Committee:** A games committee will be formed consisting of five randomly selected advisors. The games committee may be called upon to review and vote on disqualification in the event of plagiarism or other issues.