

Minutes of the 2024-25 Journalism Advisory Committee

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

The IHSA Journalism Advisory Committee meeting was held via video conference call on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, beginning at 3:00 p.m. Advisory committee members in attendance: Stephanie Vargas, Chicago (Payton), Adviser; Division 2 Dane Erbach, McHenry, Adviser; Division 3 Patrick DiFilippo, Oak Lawn (Community), Adviser; Division 4 Susan Bookless, Galena, Adviser; Division 5 Brad Bovenkerk, Normal (Community), Adviser; Division 6 Adam Eucker, Williamsville, Principal; Division 7 Dana Donovan, Okawville, Adviser. IHSA Asst. Executive Director Matt Troha conducted the meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

1. **Recommendation:** Update the Terms & Conditions, Judging rubrics and competition prompts in the event of Yearbook Caption Writing to include language that defines that “lead-in text should be included in your work.”

Rationale: It is not currently clearly defined if lead-in text should or should not be used by competitors, however, some judges have commented on this positively or negatively in the past, so clearly defining it will bring great uniformity.

2. **Recommendation:** Change the name of the “Yearbook Layout: Double Page” event to “Yearbook Design”.

Rationale: Makes the event clearer and more concise, while also matching naming for Newspaper Design.

3. **Recommendation:** In the Yearbook Layout: Double Page event, add the following line to the judging rubric: “Is typography used effectively?”

Rationale: Will bring greater clarity to the judging process in this event.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The committee discussed reformatting the judging rubric sheets. The committee has directed Matt Troha at the IHSA to reformat a few event rubric sheets to include a numeric ranking system that also provides for greater written explanation by the judge. They asked Matt to share the revised rubrics with advisers to seek feedback, and also survey them on potentially using the revised rubric in a pilot program in select events this spring.

2. The committee unanimously supported releasing the prompts for Photo Story Telling and Video News to the Monday prior to the Sectional.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. The committee heard a report from Matt Troha on the 2024 IHSA State Series.
2. The committee discussed the use of dummy captions in the design categories.
3. The committee discussed the prompts for video news and photo story telling.
4. The committee discussed the timing for Sectional awards.
5. The committee discussed the Copy Editing event and seeking greater consistency from judges to judge based on the answer key and not rewriting text.
6. The committee discussed the use of Canva in design events and creating stronger language in the prompt that the tools within Canva can be utilized, but premade templates cannot.