BNC
Frequently Asked Questions

What file formats may be used to enter the contest?

If you are not using a URL to link to your entry, the best file format to use is a low-resolution PDF. Please combine multiple PDFs and compress to the recommended size of 5mb or lower. Acceptable file types are PDF, JPG, GIF, and PNG — NO Word files! Photos should be in JPG file format only.

What if my information is wrong or my paper is not listed?

Contact bnc@michiganpress.org and your information will be reviewed.

What combination of online and print publications can I use?

IF you have a question about what you can use, please call Diana and she will tell you.

Do I need to send anything to Michigan Press Association World Headquarters?

The entire contest is online only this year. You can even pay online with credit card or PayPal. Please follow payment instructions at https://www.newspapercontest.com/Contests/MichiganPressAssociation.aspx.

How can I make my PDF files smaller?

Most publication PDFs include high-resolution grayscale or CMYK images for printing. However, PDF contest entries will be viewed and judged on a computer monitor, which displays at low resolution (72-96dpi) in RGB color. Changes in the resolution and color mode of images are the most effective ways to reduce file size without sacrificing quality.

1. Resolution. In PDFs, text is always clear regardless of resolution: resolution relates only to photos and rasterized graphics. Reducing resolution by half reduces image file size by 75%. The recommended maximum resolution of 96dpi can be enforced by Distiller settings.

2. Color mode. Converting from CMYK to RGB color will reduce image file size by another 25%. This color conversion can again be enforced by Distiller settings.

If you reduce image resolution and/or convert color mode in your entry PDFs with a PDF editor (e.g., Enfocus Pitstop or Quite a Box of Tricks) or use the native profiling/editing tools in Acrobat 6 or later, YOU WILL NOT GAIN THE EXPECTED REDUCTION IN FILE SIZE unless you redistill the PDF afterward.

When will we see the results of the contest?

Contest results will be announced in 2025. Certificates will be mailed shortly after. If your publication is part of a group, your certificates will be mailed with other certificates awarded for that group to the publisher.

Who can enter the Open Class Contests?

If you are a member newspaper, college member, individual member or News Media Member and ==*your dues are paid in full you can enter*==.

How do I know what to write in my entry descriptions?

First, know that whatever you write in your entry fields is what the judges will see. We WILL NOT edit what you put there, so if you credit "PeeWee Herman" with writing a story that is who the judges will see. Also, PeeWee will be awarded a certificate, because we will use entry titles and

credits to print on awards. Being simple and direct with your descriptions is best. If an entire staff is responsible for an entry, simply write "staff" in the credits.

What if there are several run dates for my one entry?

You must enter a run date. Please enter the earliest date of the entry and the remaining dates in the comment section.

Other Information:

Contest is open to Staff Members of the member only.
For freelancers to be able to enter they need to have their own membership.

Where can I get more help for anything I can't find here?

Call: Diana's cell at 517-610-4813

Email: bnc@michiganpress.org

FYI: You now have access to save your work throughout the year. By creating your own Open Call account, you can utilize the site's new "Contestant Scrapbook" feature and be more prepared when contest time rolls around. Contestants can upload content from their Scrapbooks directly into an entry. Setting up and using Scrapbooks is easy and intuitive, but if you should have any questions on the uses and features of Scrapbooks, contact the website for more information. Just follow on-screen instructions to set it up.