

NSPA National Scholastic Press Association

Best of Show Categories

NSPA Best of Show newspaper entries are categorized by both format and page count. The categories are explained and illustrated in the chart below. The goal is that entries are competing in contests against similar publications to ensure fairness and opportunity. All junior high/middle school newspapers are in one category.



NEWSPAPER BROADSHEET

(No separate page count categories)

A broadsheet newspaper is often noticeably longer than it is wide. Increasingly, the design and approach to presentation are what define broadsheets. These papers will typically have several columns across and include multiple stories on a page, especially the front page. Broadsheets typically don't have a magazine-like cover, but some of the smaller sizes may take this approach. Story jumps are common to broadsheets, but not always present. Content is usually a mixture of "straight" news, features and opinion conveyed through text, photos and graphics. The most newsworthy stories are usually found on the front page.



NEWSPAPER TABLOID

Page count categories:

- 16 or fewer pages
- 17 or more pages

A tabloid newspaper is typically more square in shape and more horizontal, or magazine-like, in design approach than broadsheets. A tabloid-format newspaper will usually have a front page that is dominated by a large photo or graphic with one headline and teasers, though it may feature some story text. Pages typically contain no more than three stories or story starts, and will often have only one or two. Story jumps are used less frequently in tabloids than in broadsheets, and stories typically are contained to one or two pages. Content is usually a mixture of "straight" news, features and opinion conveyed through text, photos and graphics. The most newsworthy stories are often announced on the front page or cover, but the actual stories may appear several pages into the newspaper.



NEWSMAGAZINE

(No separate page count categories)

Newsmagazines are generally more square in shape and feature an image that dominates the cover. The main difference between tabloids and newsmagazines is in the approach to content and design. In a newsmagazine, multiple inside pages are dedicated to the same topic. Many stories will often run for two or more pages, accompanied by multiple pieces of art and graphics. Magazines are typically less text-heavy than broadsheets and tabloids, giving significantly more area to photos and design elements. Feature content is what dominates a newsmagazine, with fewer "straight" news stories than broadsheets or tabloids. Straight news is typically designed into a specific department at the front or back of the book. The most newsworthy stories are often announced on the cover, but usually will not appear until at least several pages into the book.

Other Best of Show categories: Yearbook (232 or fewer pages, 233–288 pages, 289–336 pages, 337 or more pages), Junior High/Middle School Yearbook, Broadcast Program, Literary Magazine, Newspaper Special Edition and Publication Website (small and large school).