



## 10th Annual Futures Awards

### **Introduction:**

The Futures Awards are designed to recognize excellent journalism by Utah high school students. Sponsored by the Utah College Media Alliance in collaboration with the Utah Press Association, the Utah Education Network and Amplify Utah, the contest is judged by Utah's college journalists, journalism professors and professional journalists. The Futures Awards encourage high school students who show an interest in journalism to pursue their media interests into college and beyond.

**NOTES for 2024-25:** The Futures is continuing with the High School Journalist of the Year award with 3 categories: writing, photography/multimedia and video/broadcast. The Coverage Cup also will provide a place for schools to show off their consistent work throughout the year on a single topic.

Because of a new partnership, winning submissions and select work may be published by UCMA, UEN, Amplify Utah and our media partners. Please review and agree to our "Submission Terms & Agreements" detailed at the end of this document before submitting work for Futures Awards consideration.

All entries must have been published or broadcast during the 2024-25 school year, but entries from May 2024 after the 2023-24 Futures contest may be entered. The adviser is responsible for informing students whose May 2024 work is entered.

This year, all schools will compete in the same division to increase the level of competition for all.

Enter online at [utahcollegemedia.org/futures](http://utahcollegemedia.org/futures)

## Categories:

### **Breaking News - 3 categories: Writing, Photography, Video/Broadcast**

- Breaking news stories and photos should require quick reaction time and should be published in the issue, online or broadcast immediately or quickly following the event. Photos may be stand-alone or attached to a breaking news story. Submit a pdf or permanent link. When submitting a pdf, clearly indicate which story or photo is being submitted. Links to video/broadcast packages can point to a school's website, YouTube (or similar service), or a specific video file. If passwords are required, they must be provided.

### **News - 3 categories: Writing, Photography, Video/Broadcast**

- News stories and photos should have some hard news elements. Enterprise reporting is encouraged. Photos may be stand-alone or attached to a news story. Submit a pdf or permanent link. When submitting a pdf, clearly indicate which story or photo is being submitted. Links to video/broadcast packages can point to a school's website, YouTube (or similar service), or a specific video file. If passwords are required, they must be provided.

### **Sports - 3 categories: Writing, Photography, Video/Broadcast**

- Sports stories should be objective, not columns. Photos may be stand-alone or attached to a sports story. Submit a pdf or permanent link. When submitting a pdf, clearly indicate which story or photo is being submitted. Links to video/broadcast packages can point to a school's website, YouTube (or similar service), or a specific video file. If passwords are required, they must be provided.

### **Feature - 3 categories: Writing, Photography, Video/Broadcast**

- Feature stories may cover any topic of interest, including sports. Photos may be stand-alone or attached to a feature story. Submit a pdf or permanent link. When submitting a pdf, clearly indicate which story or photo is being submitted. Links to video/broadcast packages can point to a school's website, YouTube (or similar service), or a specific video file. If passwords are required, they must be provided.

### **Opinion - 2 categories: Writing, Video/Broadcast**

- Opinion pieces may be an editorial or an individual column or commentary and be stand alone or part of a regular series. Entries may be on any subject, such as politics, sports, etc. Submit a pdf or permanent link. When submitting a pdf, clearly indicate which story is being submitted. Links to video/broadcast packages can point to a school's website, YouTube (or similar service), or a specific video file. If passwords are required, they must be provided.

### **Illustration/Cartoon - 1 category**

- Illustrations may be stand alone art or published in conjunction with other content. Cartoons may be political or humorous and be stand alone or part of a series. Submit a pdf or permanent link. When submitting a pdf, clearly indicate which illustration or cartoon is being submitted.

### **Design - 3 categories: Newspaper, Website, Video Production**

- Overall design or production, including headlines and editing, will be considered. For a newspaper, submit a pdf document of 3 complete issues; one from September or October 2024, one from January or February 2025, and one from a month of your choice. For the website, submit the URL. For video production, submit a permanent link to 3 complete broadcast packages; one from September or October 2024, one from January or February 2025, and one from a month of your choice. If passwords are required, they must be provided.

### **Headlines - 2 categories: Individual, Staff**

- Headlines entries may be made as an individual or a staff. A single editor who has written at least 5 headlines may submit an individual entry. Multiple editors may collectively submit a staff entry. For individual entry, submit between 5 to 7 headlines from stories. For staff entry, submit between 8-10 headlines from stories. Each headline should be an individual PDF, but does not need to contain the whole story. It should have enough text to provide context for the headlines. If the story contains related headlines – jump heads, etc. – those are not considered separate entries.

### **Podcast - 2 categories: Best Podcast Episode, Best Podcast**

- Best Podcast Episode – Submit no longer than a 10 minute clip of a single episode from the current year. Links to audio episodes can point to a school's website, a specific audio file, a file share system, or similar. If passwords are required, they must be provided.
- Best Podcast – Submit no longer than a 10 minute clip of at least 3 different episodes from the current year. One episode should be from September or October 2022, one from January or February 2023, and one episode of your choosing. Links to audio episodes can point to a school's website, a specific audio file, a file share system, or similar. If passwords are required, they must be provided.

### **Best High School Journalist - 3 categories: Writing, Photography, Video/Broadcast**

- This category will judge the body of journalistic work from individual high school students. Entries should include a portfolio of 5 pieces of work from the same student. Diversity of work, from news, features, sports, opinion, etc., is encouraged. Entry must indicate which category is being entered.
- Students must be seniors and the work must represent two or more years on the staff. Dates must be clearly visible and all work must be published. When submitting a pdf, clearly indicate which story or photo is being submitted. Links to video/broadcast packages can point to a school's website, YouTube (or similar service), or a specific video file. If passwords are required, they must be provided.

**Best High School Media Program** - One award will be made, based on total points accumulated by each high school. Points will be awarded as follows: 1st place - 6 points, 2nd place - 4 points, 3rd place - 3 points. The high school with the highest score will receive a cash award to be used by the school's media organization. There must be more than one entry per category for points to be awarded and count towards the Best Program award. If a school sweeps a category, points will only be awarded for the 1st place winner in that category.

**Coverage Cup** - Those who attended the UCMA Fall Symposium in 2024 are eligible to enter this prestigious category that challenges schools to focus on a single topic of relevance to their student body. Submitted materials should include coverage of all types--articles, photos, video, social media, podcasts, whatever--as well as marketing materials. A letter should describe the goals of covering this topic and any evidence that the coverage made a difference at your school. This category will be judged by college advisers.

## **Judging:**

Judging will be based on overall excellence. Criteria include:

- Accuracy and completeness
- Enterprise and ingenuity
- Adherence to high journalistic standards
- Significance and effectiveness
- Extenuating circumstances
- Clarity, insight and respect for the audience
- Creative use of the medium's unique capabilities
- Adherence to the SPJ Code of Ethics
- Judges will weigh the resources available to the student when selecting the winners.

One winner and up to two finalists will be chosen in each category unless the judges find that the entries do not meet the overall standard of excellence required. No honorable mentions will be awarded. A category may have up to two finalists and no winner if entries do not meet the requirements.

## **Eligibility:**

- The contest is open to anyone who is enrolled in a Utah high school during the 2024-25 academic year. Advisers may enter the work of recent graduates if it was published in May 2024 after The Futures deadline for 2023-24.
- All entries must have been published or broadcast during the 2024-25 academic year or in May 2024.
  - As long as the work is uncompensated, the entry may have been published or broadcast in any media outlet, not just high school media. Any entry found to have been compensated will be disqualified.

- Unpublished manuscripts, classroom exercises and unaired news broadcasts do not qualify. Any work found to be unpublished, unaired or a classroom exercise will be disqualified.
  - A classroom exercise is defined as work assigned for a grade or fulfillment of a course requirement and is not eligible for an award unless it was also published in the high school newspaper, high school broadcast stations or website.
- Work that is pending publication by the April 15 deadline may be entered as long as it is accompanied by verification from the adviser that the piece will be published by May 1 along with the expected publication date.
  - Advisers will be asked to email proof of publication to [joshua.petersen@utah.edu](mailto:joshua.petersen@utah.edu) by May 1 for entries that are pending publication.
- Advisers are encouraged to make entries on behalf of their students.

## General Rules:

- Entries not originally published or broadcast in English should include English subtitles or an English translation.
- Entries that are incomplete or entered in the wrong category will be disqualified. Entrants will be notified as soon as possible of incomplete or incorrect entries in order to allow for corrections if possible. Any entries not corrected within 3 days of notification will be disqualified.
- Entries with invalid, private or broken links will be disqualified. All links must be public or passwords for access must be provided with the entry.
- Winning entries may be reproduced or posted on the Utah Press Association, UCMA, Utah Education Network, Amplify Utah or media partner websites for educational or other purposes. Please agree to terms and conditions of publication of our partners, Amplify Utah and the Utah Education Network.
- Each contestant may enter as many categories as desired. There is no limit on the number of entries a school or news outlet may enter.
- Each entry must be accompanied by a \$5 entry fee. It is recommended that each school should pursue funding for award entries from their high school administration. If that doesn't work or you need any assistance in paying for entry fees, please contact Josh Petersen [joshua.petersen@utah.edu](mailto:joshua.petersen@utah.edu) to find out about applying for entry fee grants. A limited number are available.
- Entries should be PDFs of print pages, permanent links of online-only work or uploads or links to video work. Indicate which item on a page, website or newscast should be judged if more than one item appears in the file. Links must be public or passwords must be provided with the entry.
- Be sure the name of each student who worked on the entry is listed on the entry form and spelled correctly. Trophies and certificates will be based on the entry.
  - Up to four individuals may be named on a team entry; otherwise, the entry must be submitted in the name of the newspaper, magazine, station or online news site.
- If a category does not draw enough entries for robust competition, a category may

be eliminated.

## **Deadlines:**

Entries for the Utah High School Future of Journalism Contest are being accepted from **March 25** through **April 15, 2025**.

## **Award Presentation:**

The awards ceremony will be **May 13** at the **University of Utah's Sorensen Student Center**. Watch for an announcement.

## **How to enter:**

For your convenience, the Futures are conducted electronically. All entries will be submitted online at the website [newspapercontest.com/futures](http://newspapercontest.com/futures). The current year's site will open on March 25, 2025 and close April 15, 2025.

## **Publication of work**

***Note: This year we are partnering with the Utah Educational Network and Amplify Utah to publish high school media work beyond your student outlets. We ask that you agree to the following terms and conditions to allow for your students' work to be published.***

## **Amplify Utah Terms and Agreements**

Students submitting content for to the Future Awards agree to our terms and conditions. These terms apply to any content submitted to us for award consideration may be published by UCMA, UEN, Amplify Utah and any of our media partners, by association. This includes stories, digital content, images, video, graphics, data, letters or other correspondence.

When you submit to UCMA's Futures Awards, you agree that you have created this content or have received permission from the owner to publish all or any part of the content. You (or the owner of the content) own the copyright of the submitted work, but through your submission, you grant us unconditional, irrevocable, non-exclusive, royalty-free, fully transferable and perpetual license to use, publish or transmit, or to authorize third-parties to use, publish or transmit your content in any format and on any platform, either now known or hereinafter introduced.

You acknowledge and agree that when you provide us with content, you are responsible for the accuracy and completeness of that content and have verified all submitted information, including, but not limited to, facts, data, names, titles, quotes and attribution. You acknowledge and agree that the views expressed by you and other users of this content do not necessarily reflect the views of UCMA, UEN, Amplify Utah or our media partners. You acknowledge that we have the right to pre-screen, monitor or review content provided by you and other users. We may edit submitted content for length and may contact the author/creator with clarifying

questions prior to publication.

We and our media partners reserve the right to cut, crop or edit your content at our or their discretion. We reserve the right to refuse publication and may remove your content from use at any time. We accept no liability in respect to content submitted by users and published by us or our media partners.

You ensure the content you submit is not obscene, offensive, threatening, harassing, libelous, defamatory, deceptive, fraudulent or plagiarized, invasive of another's privacy or otherwise illegal. You ensure the content you submit does not infringe any patent, trademark, copyright or other intellectual property or privacy right of any party or individual.

## UEN terms and conditions

A. Company desires to provide UEN with images, photographs, drawings, moving images, film, video or other audio/visual representations of the material identified on Exhibit A attached hereto (the "**Content**") owned by Company for the purpose of public distribution of the Content by UEN;

B. UEN and Company wish to enter into this Agreement for the purpose of confirming in writing their agreement concerning intellectual rights in and to the Content.

### **AGREEMENT**

NOW, THEREFORE, for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

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2. Warranty. Company warrants that it has the lawful right to grant the License ("**Warranty**").
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6. Release. Company hereby releases and discharges UEN from any and all claims arising out of or in connection with its use of the Content in accordance with the License and the terms of this Agreement.