

SPJ Georgia: First Annual High School Scholarship 2024

ATTENTION: HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

WHAT: The Georgia Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists offers high school seniors enrolled in a public school in Georgia, a scholarship opportunity. If you have plans to declare Journalism as your major in college, this scholarship is for you.

FORMAT: For Digital: Write a 500-word essay on one of the questions below.

For Podcast: Record a 2-minute episode on one of the questions below.

For Broadcast: Tape a 1:30- to 2-minute segment on one of the questions below.

QUESTIONS:

1. How can journalists distinguish their work from that of bloggers, influencers, citizen journalists, and others providing content online?
2. What journalist (print, online, TV, radio) has most shaped your vision of what a journalist should be?
3. Name and explain one of the principles of journalism and why it remains critical today.
4. How does artificial intelligence (AI) shape the way you contribute to student media and/or journalism/media in general?

APPLICATION PERIOD: April 1, 2024 to April 30, 2024 (closes at 11:59 p.m. EST)

ENTRY FEE: \$0 (FREE!)

AWARD: Each category's first-place winner will receive a \$500 stipend toward college fees. SPJ Georgia, SPJ Region 3, and private donors fund the scholarships. Winners will be notified via email, and the names of winners will be announced in May. The winning essay, podcast episode, and broadcast segment will be posted on <https://spjgeorgia.com> and winners will be posted on the SPJ Georgia social media accounts.

UPLOAD ENTRY: [SPJGeorgia.com](https://spjgeorgia.com) site or email spjgeorgia@gmail.com.

GENERAL RULES:

1. Contestants must enter through SPJ Georgia's website or via the chapter's email address.
2. Contestants must compose original work with limited-to-no guidance from others.

3. The Society of Professional Journalists Georgia Chapter will have the right to edit, publish, or otherwise duplicate any essay, podcast episode, or broadcast segment entered into the contest without payment to the original author.
4. Due to the volume of entries received, only first-place winners will be contacted.

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. The contest is open to high school seniors enrolled in a public school in the state of Georgia. These seniors must have plans to declare Journalism as their major in college.
2. Contestants may submit only one essay, podcast episode, or broadcast entry during any given contest year.
3. No individual who has previously won a national SPJ essay scholarship, including other multimedia efforts, will be eligible to compete for this scholarship opportunity.

CONTEST RULES FOR ESSAY, PODCAST EPISODE, AND BROADCAST SEGMENT:

1. Participants must answer one of the four questions provided above.
2. Each entry must include the online entry [form](#).
3. Essays must be typewritten and double-spaced.
4. Essays must contain at least 350 words but no more than 500 words.
5. Any quotations or copyrighted material used in the essay must be identified properly. Failure to identify non-original material (footnotes) will result in disqualification.
6. Essays must be written in English.
7. Audio for the 2-minute podcast must be in mp3, m4a or wav format.
8. Broadcast must be 1:30 to 2 minutes in .mov or .mp4 format. You will create a television news segment/package with two to three soundbites, a stand-up, B-Roll/video, audio/voice over and natural sound.

JUDGING/TIMING:

1. Judging will be completed by a panel of qualified SPJ members. And winners will be notified in May 2024.

MORE ON THE MISSION OF SPJ: The Society of Professional Journalists is a national organization dedicated to the perpetuation of a free press as the cornerstone of our nation and our liberty.

SPJ GEORGIA SUPPORTS THE MISSION BY:

- Upgrading the journalistic profession wherever possible throughout Georgia.
- Cooperating with and assisting colleges and universities in developing strong journalism schools and departments.
- Encouraging diversity among journalists and developing a profession that is representative of the public it serves.
- Informing and educating the public on issues concerning freedom of the press, freedom of speech, and speaking out on such issues.
- Encouraging freedom of information and preserving and protecting public access to its government.
- Supporting journalists fighting to maintain the First Amendment, the public's access to government, and the public's right to know.
- Supporting and encouraging professional development and continuing education of journalists.