

STN Challenge

Fall Contest 2019

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: October 17th by 5:00 PM PST

TOPICS RELEASED: October 18, 2019

UPLOAD DEADLINE: October 23rd by 5:00 PM PST

READY FOR THE CHALLENGE?

Here's how it works:

- Register up to 4 students in each contest
- Receive topics on STN social media & website
- Produce an entry in 6 days or less
- Upload the entry by the deadline
- Receive comments from industry professionals

There are 8 STN Challenge categories:

1. High School News Feature Story (max 3:00)
2. High School Sports Feature Story (max 3:00)
3. High School Short Film (max 3:00)
4. High School PSA (max :60)
5. High School Music Video (song provided)
6. Middle School Feature Story (max 3:00)
7. Middle School PSA (max :60)
8. Middle School Music Video (song provided)

All entries will be awarded 1st, 2nd, 3rd and, if applicable, Honorable Mention. If the entries do not meet STN standards, the judges may elect to award less or no awards.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
Oct 17 2019 at 5pm PST

REGISTER FOR THE CHALLENGE!

This contest is Pre-Registration ONLY. Teams must sign up and commit to the Challenge BEFORE the contest begins. You must know the names of your team members in order to register and you CANNOT change any of the names after the deadline.

Affiliates may enter one team in each category, with no more than 4 students on a team. Individual students may participate in only one Challenge category per membership.

Each entry costs \$20 and must be paid with a credit card at the time of registration. This fee is not refundable should you decide not to enter a video in the Challenge OR if you miss the deadline OR if registered team members become unavailable during the contest period, for any reason.

CHALLENGE TOPICS announced October 18 on STN Website and Social Media:

Facebook.com/studenttelevisionnetwork
Instagram@stnnow
Twitter @stnnow

RULES & REGULATIONS

- Entries may not exceed the time limit above
- All interviews and video footage must be shot by the team, during the contest period. No file footage or clips from other media outlets or parts of previous stories or projects may be used. Still pictures are permitted for back story.
- Advisers may not shoot, write or edit any part of a challenge entry. This is a "hands-off" contest and must be 100% student produced.
- Review Rules and Regulations that apply to ALL contests on the contest page of the STN website
- Only teachers may access the STN Dashboard Upload System. No student uploads please!
- Entries must be submitted by 5:00 pm Pacific time on October 23 2019 using the STN Upload System in the STN Dashboard at www.studenttelevision.org.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Entries should tie into the topic. Strong stories will grab the viewer's attention and keep it. Beginning, middle and end, as well as the overall pacing are important. Sounds should provide insight, the visuals must be compelling and the story should be focused.

Winning entries will meet the following criteria:

- Excellent content that tells a story.
- Excellent production values.
- Strong connection to the topic.
- Overall impact and professionalism.

Please refer to the judging criteria on the next few pages for a complete description of the specific contest category expectations. The winning entries will be announced and promoted on the STN website and winners will receive any applicable plaques or certificates.

STN CHALLENGE JUDGING CRITERIA

News and **Sports** entries are judged by industry professionals. Affiliates should understand that judging is subjective and will not always be in line with what is taught in a school production classroom. This is a real-world experience. STN contest judges are not teachers, they are professionals who have offered their expert opinion and feedback, based on years of work experience in the TV/Film industry.

Entries are evaluated using a combination of criteria that is specific to the contest being judged. There are no final point scores. The BEST entries that follow the rules will win the contest. Criteria are evaluated using a scale ranging from **NEEDS WORK** to **AVERAGE** to **EXCELLENT**. STN judges work hard to make sure every entry receives feedback including a bar graph that reflects how an entry performed in the contest's specified criteria.

The Judges will ask the following questions when evaluating News and Sports entries:

- **Camera/Direction** – Do the visuals tell the story? Are shots steady, focused, well composed? Are there compelling sequences using creative angles?
- **Lighting** – Are the visuals crisp and clear? Did the videographer avoid poor lighting situations? Did the videographer adjust the lens to optimize the picture? Was there any creative lighting?
- **Audio** – Are the sounds and voice tracks clean and clear? Are the soundbites clean and clear? Is the segment leveled properly? Are sounds balanced?
- **Nat Sound** – Did the story start with great nat sound? Are there nat sound moments and pops incorporated into the story? Does the natural sound help tell the story?
- **Editing** – Does the editing distract from the story? Are the sequences and transitions smooth? Were common editing mistakes avoided (jump cuts, flash frames, etc...)? Was there any creative editing techniques used to help tell the story?
- **Drama/Human Interest** – Did the story appeal to the emotions? Was the story compelling? Was the main character memorable? Was the story covered from a unique angle or perspective?
- **Storytelling/Script** – Does the story have good structure and flow? Beginning, Middle and End? Was the reporter track written clearly and conversationally? Were active verbs and smooth transitions used between the main points of the story? **Integrity/Courage** – Is the story fair and balanced? Accurate? Did the reporter remain objective? Were people, places and things pronounced correctly? Did the reporter take any risks by covering a difficult story? Did the reporter stay focused?
- **Closeness to Topic** – Did the reporter understand the topic? Did the story stick to the topic? Did the visuals fit? Did the script make a compelling connection to the topic?
- **Followed Directions** – Did the entry meet contest objectives? Did the entry follow the rules and regulations? Did the entry ONLY use video shot during the contest period? Did the entry's total running time stay within the time limit? Did the entry make use of copyright music or images? Did the entry follow STN's creative contest policies?

Music Video, Short Film and PSA entries are judged by industry professionals. Affiliates should understand that judging is subjective and will not always be in line with what is taught in a school production classroom. This is a real-world experience. STN contest judges are not teachers, they are professionals who have offered their expert opinion and feedback, based on years of work experience in the TV/Film industry.

Entries are evaluated using a combination of criteria that is specific to the contest being judged. There are no final point scores. The BEST entries that follow the rules will win the contest. Criteria are evaluated using a scale ranging from **NEEDS WORK** to **AVERAGE** to **EXCELLENT**. STN judges work hard to make sure every entry receives feedback including a bar graph that reflects how an entry performed in the contest's specified criteria.

The Judges will ask the following questions when evaluating Music Video, Short Film and PSA, entries:

- **Camera/Direction** – Do the visuals tell the story? Are shots steady, focused, well composed? Are there compelling sequences using creative angles?
- **Lighting** – Are the visuals crisp and clear? Did the videographer avoid poor lighting situations? Did the videographer adjust the lens to optimize the picture? Was there any creative lighting?
- **Audio/Music** – Are the sounds and voice tracks clean and clear? Are the soundbites clean and clear? Is the segment leveled properly? Are sounds balanced?
- **Editing** – Does the editing distract from the story? Are the sequences and transitions smooth? Were common editing mistakes avoided (jump cuts, flash frames, etc...)? Were there any creative editing techniques used to help tell the story?
- **Storytelling/Script** – Does the story have good structure and flow? Beginning, Middle and End? Was the reporter track written clearly and conversationally? Active verbs were used? Were there smooth transitions between the main points of the story?
- **Continuity** – Did the story make sense from the beginning to the middle and through the end?
- **Creativity** – Did the entry try something different or unique? Did it take creative risks that paid off?
- **Acting/Talent** – How was the general performance of the talent? Was the cast a good fit for the production? Did the acting add or take away from the entry?
- **Closeness to Topic** – Did the producer understand the topic? Did the story stick to the topic? Did the visuals fit the topic? Did the script make a compelling connection to the topic?
- **Followed Directions** – Did the entry meet the contest objectives? Did the entry follow all the rules and procedures? Did the entry ONLY use video shot during the contest period? Did the entry's total running time stay within the time limit? Did the entry make use of copyright music or images? Did the entry follow STN's creative contest policies?