



## 2010 Contest Rules

1. All entries must have been published, printed, uploaded, or aired between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2009. The categories are: **News Reporting, Investigative Reporting, Special Series, Editorial/Opinion, Feature Story, Personality profile, Special articles, Columns, Photography, Photography on the Web or Electronic Publishing, On-the-Scene Report (TV news and Radio), Prepared Report (TV Features or Sports), Special Reporting Series (Investigative or Enterprise Reporting), Writing for The Web and Online Newsletters, Blog, Web Site Development/Creation, Public Relations Campaign, Book (Adult Fiction), Book (Adult Non Fiction), Book (Children's), Book (Young Adult) Short Story, Poetry and Playwriting.** Details on each category and subcategories can be found below.
2. The Contest Committee reserves the right to add or drop categories, depending on the number of entries received. The Contest Committee reserves the right to place a book in a different category from the one in which the author originally entered it.
3. Entry must be postmarked by **January 15, 2010** and received no later than **January 20, 2010.**
4. Once an entry is accepted for the contest, there will be no refund.
5. Entries mailed by priority mail or courier must not require a signature for receipt.
6. Membership in the Connecticut Press Club is not required, but applicants must either live in the State of Connecticut or their entries published or produced by Connecticut media organizations.
7. Judges may award first, second and third place winners in each category. Judges may elect to not award a category. Category winner will be the highest scoring book in its category, providing the score is in the upper 25% of scores of all contest entries received. If none of the entries in a given category scores in the overall top 25%, there will be no finalist in that category.
8. Finalists will be announced on or about March 7, 2010.
9. Winners will be announced at the Awards Banquet on Thursday, May 6, 2010.
10. Entry in the Connecticut Press Club Contest constitutes agreement by the writer to conform to all contest rules, abide by the decision of the judges, and hold blameless the Connecticut Press Club, The Connecticut Press Club Contest

Coordinators and all judges. In entering, the author agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Connecticut Press Club, its officers, members and all judges of the Contest from liability for its/their actions arising from or relating to judging and handling of the entry and conducting, sponsoring and advertising the event.

11. The Contest Committee reserves the right to disqualify any entry if rules are not fully met.

12. Author must enclose:

A. Five (5) copies of each entry. Entries will not be returned.

B. A completed **Entry Form** for each entry. Entry forms may be photocopied.

C. The entry fee of for each book and/or each category entered. The total entry fee should be by check or money order made payable to the Connecticut Press Club, and sending payment to P.O. Box 4233, Stamford, CT 06907.

D. An **optional** self-addressed stamped postcard on which the contest coordinator will confirm receipt of your entry.

13. Send entry, marked with category on outside of package, to:

Connecticut Press Club  
P.O. Box 4233  
Stamford, CT 06907

**For additional information, please contact:  
Elizabeth Keyser, Connecticut Press Club Awards Co-Chair  
(203) 337-9987 or Elizabeth5000@optonline.net.**

**[www.ctpressclub.com](http://www.ctpressclub.com)**

## **PRINT**

**General Instructions:** A tear sheet (full page or pages containing the article, special page, etc.) must be submitted for entries published in newspapers or other publications. Clearly mark the tear sheet by highlighting or underlining the headline or title. Photocopies or print PDFs of tear sheets are permitted when originals are not available, but they must show publication name and date of issue printed on the page.

### **News Reporting**

Submit ONE (1) article per entry. **Judges will consider** planning and general organization of story, initiative in obtaining story, news writing, readability and impact.

### **Investigative Reporting**

Entry should demonstrate entrant's ability to provide treatment of an issue that has

an impact on the publication's coverage area but that has not received prior coverage or would not have been told without the reporter's diligence in uncovering or reporting of the subject. Submit a maximum of SIX (6) articles representing the course of the story. The entry date is the date of the final article, which must be **on or before Dec. 31 of the contest year**. A one-page written statement **MUST** accompany the entry. It should include the entrant's role in preparing the coverage, chronology of events, current status of issue covered and any unusual circumstances or difficulties encountered in preparation of the series. **Judges will consider** the initiative, thoroughness of research, documentation, clarity of writing and/or presentation and technical excellence.

### **Special Series**

Open competition. Submit a minimum of THREE (3), but not more than SIX (6) developed articles. The articles must be numbered or must otherwise indicate with an editor's note, a consistent series title or a logo that the articles were intended as a series, published either over time or in the same issue. The entry date is the date of the final article, which must be **on or before Dec. 31 of the contest year**. A one-page written statement **MUST** accompany the entry. It should include the entrant's role in preparing the coverage, chronology of events, current status of issue covered and any unusual circumstances or difficulties encountered in preparation of the series. **Judges will consider** the initiative, thoroughness of research, documentation, clarity of writing and/or presentation and technical excellence.

### **Editorial/Opinion**

Submit ONE (1) article per entry. **DO NOT SUBMIT** personal columns. This category is for pieces that appear on editorial or op-ed pages. In addition to considering local interest of the publication for the readers, **judges will consider** clarity of style, sound reasoning and effort to influence readers' opinions in what the writer believes to be the right direction.

### **Feature Story**

Submit ONE (1) article per entry. **DO NOT ENTER** interview as feature (see Category 8, Personality Profile). **Judges will consider** interest and unusual aspects of the feature material itself and/or the handling of it, writing style, readability and thoroughness of coverage.

### **Personality Profile**

Open competition. Submit ONE (1) article per entry. A profile should give a portrait of an individual based on interviews with one or more persons. **Judges will consider** how well the writer reveals the personality of the subject by exploring the subject's actions, background, motivation and character.

### **Special Articles**

Open competition. Submit TWO (2) articles on the same basic subject for each sub-category. The two articles equal one entry and both should be listed on the same entry form and placed in one envelope. Entrants may enter one or all sub-categories, but the two articles that make up an entry must be on the topic of that sub-category. Example: sub-category O (Sports), both articles may cover various sports topics; each may focus on a particular sport, e.g., basketball; or each article may cover a different sport – one on basketball and one on hunting, etc. Or, as in sub-category M (Reviews), one article may be a review of a play, while another is a review of a

concert. **Judges will consider** the same criteria as for news or feature stories and will include the author's ability to write knowledgeably on the subject.

- A. Business
- B. Arts and entertainment
- C. Physical health, fitness, mental health, self-help
- D. Education
- E. Science (technology, ecology, environment, energy, "green issues")
- F. Food
- G. Government or politics
- H. History
- I. Home (interior decoration, furniture, architecture, landscaping)
- J. Fashion
- K. Religion
- L. Reviews (any subject, personal opinion must be expressed)
- M. Social issues (family, minority affairs, welfare, women, the elderly, consumerism)
- N. Sports
- O. Hobby or crafts
- P. Travel
- Q. Advertisorials (writing done for special advertising supplements or special sections)
- R. Criticism (coverage of art, architecture, film, books, theater, music.)

### **Columns**

Open competition, with sub-categories by column type. Submit TWO (2) columns. Columns should have a headline or logo that indicates it is a regular feature of the publication, should entertain and/or educate and should reveal author's style.

**Judges will consider** interest, organization and ideas conveyed in the column as well as clarity, readability, style and author's ability to write knowledgeably on the subject.

- A. Humorous
- B. General
- C. Informational (how-to, Q&A, advice)
- D. Specialized (essays, opinion, critique or review)

### **PHOTOGRAPHY**

**General instructions:** In all categories, a photo, laser print or copy of original (no larger than 8" x 10") must be submitted. For digital work, a CD or DVD may be submitted, but the entry also **MUST** include a printed copy (laser copy is acceptable) for ease of judging. **DO NOT MOUNT PHOTOS.** Prints, CDs and DVDs will not be returned. A tear sheet, photocopy or print PDF of the entire printed page must be attached, but **judging is on** the photo, *not* the reproduction. Except for category 22 (Photographer-writer), text will not be considered. For prints published in black and white, originals may be color or black and white.

## Photography

- A. News photo
- B. Feature photo
- C. Sports photo
- D. Advertising/advertorial photo
- E. Photo essay (photographs in a layout that either have a narrative quality or present points of view on a single subject)

### Photography on the Web or Electronic Publishing

A printed copy (print, laser print, etc.) **MUST** be included in entry. In addition, submit a CD or DVD with the digital photo as it appeared on the Web or e-publishing site, including all supportive files to be able to view the photo as it was “published” electronically. Care should be taken to ensure the photo has not been electronically altered from the version published. Entries should remain true to ethical standards followed by professional photographers.

- A. Single photo (news, feature or sports)
- B. Photo gallery (news, feature or sports)

### Photographer-writer

**Judges will consider** the quality of both the photos and the copy, the relationship of one to the other, and the completeness of the package. Both the photos and the copy must be the work of the entrant. Layout will not be considered.

## TELEVISION AND RADIO

### On-the-Scene Report (TV news and Radio)

Entry may be edited. Narratives or voice-overs are allowed only if they were part of the original piece that aired. A one-page written statement detailing circumstances surrounding coverage of story and entrant’s participation **MUST** accompany the entry. **Judges will consider** reporter’s ability to provide enterprising coverage of one unscheduled event.

- A. Radio
- B. Television

### Prepared Report (TV Features or Sports)

Entry may be limited to a single report or may include excerpts from a related series. A one-page written statement detailing circumstances surrounding coverage of story and entrant’s participation **MUST** accompany the entry. **Judges will consider** reporter’s ability to obtain a story with impact, clarity of writing/production, and concise assembly.

- A. Radio
- B. Television

### Special reporting series (Investigative or Enterprise Reporting)

Submit coverage of a single subject reported in TWO (2) or more parts. Entry should demonstrate entrant’s ability to provide treatment of an issue that has impact on the station’s coverage area but has not received prior coverage or would not have been told without the reporter’s enterprise in uncovering it. A one-page written statement

MUST accompany the entry and should include entrant's role in producing series, chronology of events, effect of coverage on community, current status of issue covered, a summary of any follow-up reports, and any unusual circumstances or difficulties encountered in preparation of series. Narratives or voice-overs are allowed only if they were part of the original piece that aired. **Judges will consider** initiative, thoroughness of research, documentation of any allegations, clarity of writing and/or presentation, and technical excellence.

- A. Radio
- B. Television

## **WRITING FOR THE WEB AND ONLINE NEWSLETTERS**

Submit hard copy printed from the Web AND a one-page statement defining the goal of the project, the site's purpose and target audience. If the entry is still accessible to the public on the Web site, circle or write the URL on the top of the printed copy. If not, entry must be accompanied by a CD or DVD with the entry viewable via the original site (include all appropriate files to enable the site to be viewed). Entries must have been created for use in electronic form; material written for print publication and reused on the Web is NOT eligible. **Judges will consider** clarity of message, appropriateness to audience and adherence to principles of Web-based communication.

## **BLOG**

Submit hard copy printed from the Web AND a one-page statement defining the goal of the project, the blog's purpose and target audience. If the entry is still accessible to the public on the Web site, circle or write the URL on the top of the printed copy. If not, entry must be accompanied by a CD or DVD with the entry viewable via the original site (include all appropriate files to enable the site to be viewed). Entries must have been created for use in electronic form; material written for print publication and reused on the Web is NOT eligible. **Judges will consider** clarity of message, appropriateness to audience and adherence to principles of Web-based communication.

## **WEB SITE DEVELOPMENT/CREATION**

Submit hard copy of home page with URL at the top so the judge can go immediately to the site. Each entry MUST be accompanied by a one-page written statement defining the goal of the project, site's purpose and target audience, launch date of the site, evaluation of project, number of visitors per month and any additional comments relevant to the development or creation of the site. Entries must have been created for use in electronic form. Material written for print publication and reused on the Web is NOT eligible. **Judges will consider** adherence to purpose, clarity of site, interaction options, design and adherence to principles of Web-based communication.

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGN**

**General instructions:** Each entry MUST be accompanied by a one-page statement that includes the research or reason for the program or campaign, audience, strategies used to reach this audience, theme (if any), timetable, budget, and how

program or campaign was evaluated. Entry must have been under the overall supervision of the entrant, with role defined in statement. Attach major supporting items including brochures, press releases, speeches, videotape, audiotape, CD or DVD (limit sample to FIVE -- 5 --minutes). If displays are too large to include in a 9" x 12" envelope, send photo/printout of entry (no larger than 8.5" x 11") or DVD with jpg file no larger than 3 megabytes. The program or campaign must have been completed **by Dec. 31 of the contest year**. **Judges will consider** clearly stated objectives, success in meeting objectives and in relating to audience, effective use of media, general impact of program, evaluation of effectiveness, and technical quality.

## **CREATIVE WRITING**

Entries in this division are judged on the principles of writing for that category. In general, **entries are judged** on quality of writing, organization of thought, expression of ideas and originality.

- Book (Adult Fiction),
- Book (Adult Non Fiction)
- Book Children's
- Book (Young Adult)
- Short Story
- Poetry
- Playwriting (Entry should include date and place of production.)