



The Official IJEA All-State Journalism Team

CHEAT SHEET

We want to make the **nomination process for the IJEA All-State Journalism Team** as *painless* as possible.

So, if the criteria below apply to one or more students on your media staff, please **nominate those staff members** for the Illinois Journalism Education Association All-State Team.

We believe they **should be greatly rewarded for their effort and passion**, and we bet you do, too.

- She **spends more time in your classroom**, or the newsroom, than at her own home.
- Said staffer is **always thinking about the staff and the publication/media** – even long after you have taken a mental break from it.
- This student journalist may be young, but he **exudes journalistic passion out of his pores**.
- This staffer seems like a **bottomless pit of story ideas**; her eyes are always open for what’s happening in the school, in the community, and in the world.
- You check yourself from texting this staffer at odd hours because you just **thought of something journalistic that he would appreciate**, too.
- When **no one else is available** to take that photo, this staffer does it, possibly at her own expense.
- When **no one else will write that story**, even though it needs to be told, this staffer does it, possibly at his own inconvenience.
- When **no one else will edit that video** ... well, you get it.
- If you see this staffer in the hallway, she **immediately engages you in a discussion** about student media.
- Even if this staffer is not a leader by title, **he is a leader by action**; the rest of the team will listen, follow, and work to live up to this person’s standards.
- On days when this staffer is not there, **you may or may not want to cry** (actually, you *do* cry).
- She is a student journalist who is willing to **confront that error, apologize on behalf of the staff**, and take one for the team.
- This staffer knows how to do a little bit of everything because he **DOES a little bit of everything**.
- It’s embarrassing, but sometimes **this student journalist cleans up the room before you can** – especially after a staff party, layout night, or special edition.
- This staffer will **sacrifice a bit of personal integrity** to hold the mic or the bounce, pose for the extreme close-up or photo illustration, or awkwardly shoot that necessary B-roll.
- She **still has energy to do scholastic journalism** when it seems like the rest of the staff (and possibly the adviser) is running on fumes.
- It’s possible that if this staffer is missing, **deadline is also missed**.
- You keep thinking: “**What I am going to do when he graduates?**”
- Chances are, this staffer is less than 10 feet away from you **right now**, doing journalism, and she likely has **never sought any recognition for being such an “indispensable” part of student journalism** in your school and community.

OK – it’s time to face the facts and nominate those students who popped into your head throughout this list.

They deserve it, and the IJEA wants to honor them, too, so go to:

<http://www.ijea.net/contests/student-awards/all-state-journalism-team/>

Thank you for working with and inspiring such amazing student journalists!