



**Awarding \$13,000 in
scholarships!**

**12 students will be awarded
scholarships ranging from \$750
to \$1,500!**

2008 Competition Topic: Technology and the 2008 Election

The proliferation of the internet is changing the media landscape. An increasing number of individuals and groups are playing an active role in the American political process through online journalism and blogs.

Some believe the internet provides greater transparency and access to more information. Others might argue that an environment has been created in which speed and sensationalism take priority over truth and accuracy.

Does this new brand of citizen journalism help make media more relevant to our daily lives? Are citizens more informed and more involved in the political process, or simply more polarized in their politics?

Take a Stand! After researching the topic, write an editorial or create an editorial cartoon addressing the issue of new technological media and their impact on the 2008 Presidential Election

Deadline for entry is March 5, 2008

12 winners will be selected and awarded scholarships ranging from \$750 to \$1,500 at an awards banquet on May 8, 2008.

Find additional information, official rules and an entry form on the following pages.

Official rules:

Who is eligible to enter: All high school juniors and seniors who live in the Austin American-Statesman home subscription area, with the exception of students whose parents or guardians are full-time or part-time employees of the competition sponsors, the Austin American-Statesman, AMD and 3M.

Awards: The four categories for this competition are Editorial Cartoons (open to all school sizes), Large School Editorials, Mid-Size School Editorials and Small School Editorials. The following scholarships will be awarded:

	Large School	Mid-Size School	Small School	Editorial Cartoons
1st	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
2nd	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
3rd	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$750

Scholarship money will be awarded upon receipt of proof of registration from a school of higher education including university, community college or other accredited college program.

Judging

All entries will be reviewed by three preliminary judges and the top ten entries in each of the four categories will be judged by three of the final judges.

Editorials: The editorials will be scored by judges based on the following criteria: introduction presents problem and establishes a stance on the issue; the body supports the stance with facts and research; and the conclusion restates the stance and offers a solution. Spelling, grammar, creativity, clarity and writing skill will also be considered.

Editorial Cartoons: All entries will be reviewed by three preliminary judges. Editorial cartoons will be scored by judges based on the following criteria: artistic merit; originality; appropriateness to topic; and style, clarity, and presentation.

Submitting your entry:

Very important entry rules are included on the following pages. Please read them carefully.

Electronic submission is strongly encouraged.

Email submissions to:

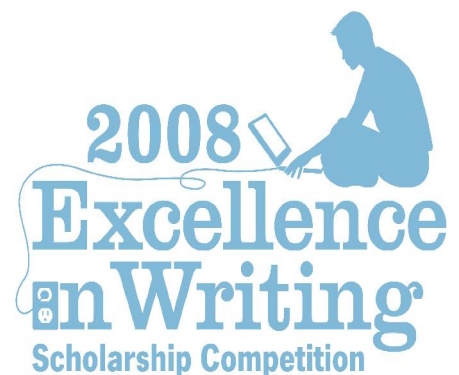
nie@statesman.com

Mail to:

Scholarship Competition, NIE
Austin American-Statesman
P.O. Box 670
Austin, Texas 78767

Hand-deliver to:

Newspapers in Education
Austin American-Statesman
305 South Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78704



Submitting an editorial

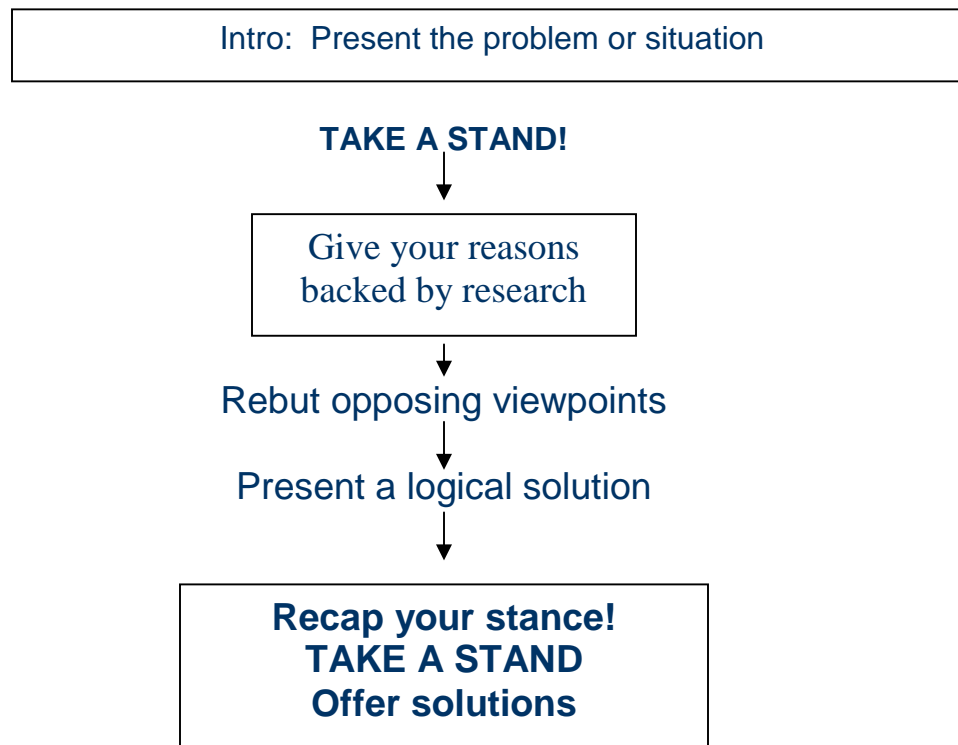
An editorial is an article that presents the newspaper's opinion on an issue. Editorials are meant to influence public opinion, promote critical thinking and sometimes motivate people to take action on an issue. Basically, it is a persuasive essay that offers a solution to a problem. Think about this year's topic and take a stand. Research the topic before you begin writing.

Editorials must be between 500 and 1,000 words in length. All entries must be double-spaced and typed in 12-point, non-italic fonts.

Your successful editorial:

- ❖ In the opening paragraph, identify the topic of your editorial and give background information. Establish your position and grab the readers' attention with dramatic phrases. State your position as strongly as possible.
- ❖ In the body of your editorial, use the opinions of experts, refer to historical facts, use statistics such as surveys and polls. Make sure your arguments are clear and supported in a way that your reader will appreciate and understand.
- ❖ Explain the issue objectively as a reporter would and tell why this topic is important. Offer opposing viewpoints and your arguments against them.
- ❖ In your conclusion, restate your strongest arguments and offer novel solutions.

Here's how it should look:



Submitting an editorial is continued on the following page.

IMPORTANT RULES FOR SUBMITTING YOUR EDITORIAL

Please read the following carefully and follow these simple rules for entry.

1. **DO NOT include your name on any page of the editorial entry. Your name should not appear on the title page or any other page.**
2. **Email your editorial entry** to nie@statesman.com with "Scholarship Competition" in the subject line. Attach your Word document with only the title on the first page. The body of the email **must** contain: student's name, home address, phone number, grade level and school name, the name of the teacher or parent sponsoring the student's entry, the title of the editorial and word count. **DO NOT INCLUDE YOUR NAME ON ANY PAGE OF THE EDITORIAL OR ON THE TITLE PAGE.** Your name should only be in the body of the email.
3. **Type the following statement in the body of your email:**
I agree to abide by the rules of the contest and to accept the decision of judges as final. I also agree, if selected as a winner, to permit the use of my name, photo and entry in contest promotional materials. All work submitted by me for this contest is my own (once emailed, this will be considered your signature of agreement).
All email entries must include the statement above.
4. **Mail or hand-delivered entries:** Include a completed entry form and four copies of your editorial with a title page and no other identifying information. **DO NOT INCLUDE YOUR NAME ON ANY PAGE** other than the entry form.

Submitting an editorial cartoon

Cartoons were originally designed to carry messages to people who couldn't read. Today, editorial cartoons have become a sophisticated means for observing society, expressing opinions on issues and getting a reaction from people. Today's editorial cartoon plays a key role in interpreting the world in which we live.

Think about the subject of technology and the 2008 Presidential Election and create your own one frame original editorial cartoon.

Some suggested cartoon techniques:

Caricature – distorting a person’s features in a way that makes the person still recognizable

Stereotyping – showing all persons of one group (religious, racial, etc.) as looking and acting the same.

Symbols – using a sign or object to stand for something else, for example the Uncle Sam figure represents the U.S.

Satire – pointing out something that seems wrong and ridiculing it.

Labels – using written words to identify figures or causes.

IMPORTANT RULES FOR SUBMITTING YOUR EDITORIAL CARTOON

1. Submit your cartoon with a one-page explanation that includes the title of your cartoon and a brief explanation about the message you are trying to get across.
2. **DO NOT INCLUDE YOUR NAME ON THE CARTOON OR EXPLANATION PAGE.**
3. **Electronic submissions are strongly encouraged and should be under 2MB.**
4. Editorial cartoons can be hand-drawn or computer-rendered. Entries must NOT depict pornographic, libelous or other inappropriate images.

Are you ready to enter? Check below to make sure you have followed all the directions.

Checklist for Electronic Submissions:

- “Scholarship Competition” in subject line
- The email body has your name, home address, phone number, grade level, the name of your sponsoring teacher or parent, your school name, the title of your editorial or editorial cartoon and word count (if submitting an editorial)
- You typed the statement into the body of your email agreeing to contest conditions
- You attached your submission, a Word Document for editorials, a PDF or JPG for editorial cartoons
- **Your attachment DOES NOT include your name**
- Your entry is emailed before midnight on Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Checklist for Mailed or Hand-delivered Submissions:

- You have included a completed entry form
- You have included a cover sheet with your name, your school name and the title of your editorial or editorial cartoon
- **Your name DOES NOT APPEAR on any other page other than the cover sheet**
- You have **included four copies** of your essay or editorial cartoon, fastened with staples
- Your mailed entry is postmarked by midnight on March 5, 2008 or your hand-delivered entry is delivered by 5 pm on Wednesday March 5, 2008

2008 Excellence in Writing Scholarship Competition Entry Form



Student's Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Grade Level: _____

School Name: _____

Word Count for Editorial Entry (if applicable): _____

Editorial Title (if applicable): _____

Editorial Cartoon Title (if applicable): _____

The name of the teacher or parent sponsoring the student's entry: _____

Parent or teacher signature: _____

For student: I agree to abide by the rules of the contest and to accept the decision of judges as final. I also agree, if selected as a winner, to permit the use of my name, photo and entry in contest promotional materials. All work submitted by me for this contest is my own.

Student signature: _____ Date: _____

Entries should be emailed or postmarked by midnight or hand delivered by 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 5, 2008.

Mail to:

Scholarship Competition, NIE
Austin American-Statesman
P.O. Box 670
Austin, Texas 78767



Hand-deliver to:

Newspapers in Education
Austin American-Statesman
305 South Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78704



Email the information above to:

nie@statesman.com

Note: "Scholarship Competition" should be in the subject line

The Statesman
statesman.com