



# Why is it important that we have news media that is independent of the government?

## ESSAY CONTEST

PLEASE ATTACH THIS FORM TO YOUR ENTRY

**Student's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Grade Level and Age:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsoring Teacher:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_

I certify this student is submitting original work.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Teacher's signature and date)

## Postmark Deadline: March 8, 2012

Please visit [www.spj.org/a-hs.asp](http://www.spj.org/a-hs.asp) for information on where to send your essay.

Questions? Contact Awards Coordinator Lauren Rochester at 317.927.8000 ext. 210 or [awards@spj.org](mailto:awards@spj.org)

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### Who's Eligible?

All students enrolled in grades 9-12 in public, private and home schools. Students must submit original work and have a sponsoring teacher sign the contest entry form.

### Format

The essay should be 300-500 words. Entries may be typed or handwritten but must be double-spaced.

### Entering

Send essay entries to the SPJ Central Ohio Pro Chapter:

#### **SPJ High School Essay Contest**

**c/o: Barbara James  
The Columbus Dispatch  
34 S. Third St.  
Columbus, OH 43215**

#### **National Awards**

**First Place: \$1,000 scholarship • Second Place: \$500 scholarship  
Third Place: \$300 scholarship**

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