

JOURNALISM WRITING

CONTEST

2025

Write a double-spaced 500 to 1,500-word journalism article using Times New Roman font with indented paragraphs. Cite your sources! Submissions with signed waiver are accepted by e-mail to

inklinkcontest@fuunevents.com

OPEN TO STUDENTS

GRADES 9-12

ENGLISH & SPANISH

SUBMISSION WILL BE
ACCEPTED UNTIL

MAR. 15

YOUR STORY STARTS HERE!

WRITE. REPORT. INSPIRE.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY FUUN EVENTS & INK LINK



JUDGING CRITERIA & AWARDS

- **Grammar and Mechanics:** Correct spelling, grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure.
- **Accuracy:** Factual correctness and attention to detail in reporting.
- **Clarity:** Clear, concise writing that communicates ideas effectively.
- **Originality:** A unique perspective, creative approach, or compelling angle on the topic.
- **Relevance:** The article addresses the chosen topic thoroughly and stays focused on its key points.
- **Source Use:** Properly cited, credible sources that support arguments and claims.
- **Journalistic Ethics:** Adherence to principles like fairness, objectivity, and avoidance of plagiarism.



PARTICIPATION ICE CREAM, CASH PRIZES, PUBLICATION OF WORK IN INK LINK NEWS

DIRECT MAIL SUBMISSIONS

**INK LINK PUBLISHER, 1087 ELM STREET,
SUITE 303, MANCHESTER, NH 03103**

MONDAY TO FRIDAY 8AM – 3PM
DROP OFFS AVAILABLE

ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS

INKLINKCONTEST@FUUNEVENTS.COM



CHOOSE YOUR TOPIC

THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON MENTAL HEALTH

Positive Impacts:

- Building connection and community for isolated or marginalized individuals.
- Access to vast information fostering learning and growth.
- Opportunities for self-expression and creativity.

Negative Impacts:

- Cyberbullying and online harassment leading to emotional distress.
- Social comparison driving negative self-image and low self-esteem.
- Addiction impacting sleep, productivity, and relationships.

Solutions:

- Digital literacy education to promote responsible use.
- Parental guidance and healthy boundaries.
- Mindfulness practices and therapy for stress management.
- Platform regulations to enhance privacy and well-being.

THE ROLE OF SOCIAL MEDIA IN SOCIETY

Investigative Journalism:

- Explore data privacy practices of social media companies.
- Analyze how algorithms shape online experiences and behaviors.
- Investigate the role of social media algorithms in polarizing opinions.

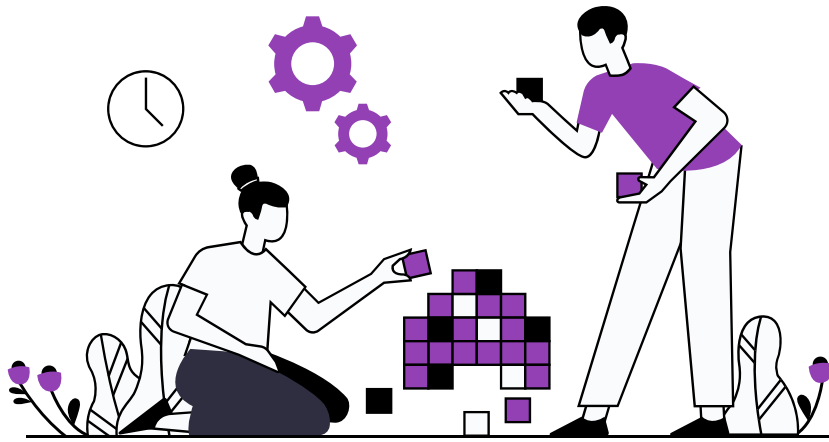
Feature Journalism:

- Examine psychological effects of digital addiction.
- Explore the rise of influencers and their cultural impact.

Opinion Writing:

- Debate ethics of content moderation and censorship.
- Speculate on the future impact of social media.





PREPARATION STEPS

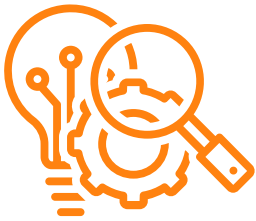


PLAN AN OUTLINE:

Organize your article with a clear structure (introduction, main points, and conclusion).

Use bullet points or numbers for key ideas.

Answer the “Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How.”



EXPLORE & RESEARCH:

Use credible sources and interview experts, mental health professionals, or individuals impacted by social media.

Source Examples: Newspapers, Google Scholar, FactCheck.org, JSTOR



CONDUCT AN INTERVIEW:

Plan respectful questions, gain consent for recordings, and focus on relevant topics.

Choose impactful quotes to include in your writing.



WRITE YOUR FIRST DRAFT:

Use your outline to create a strong draft. Integrate quotes and properly cite all sources (MLA, APA, or Chicago style).

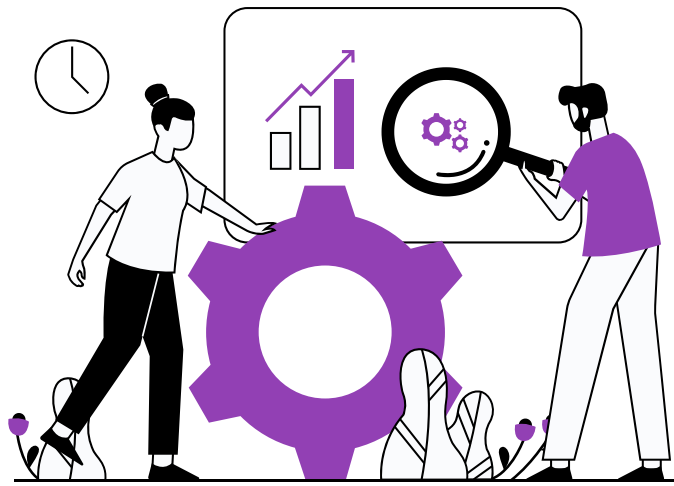
Visit www.usa.gov/how-to-cite for more instructions.



REFINE & EDIT:

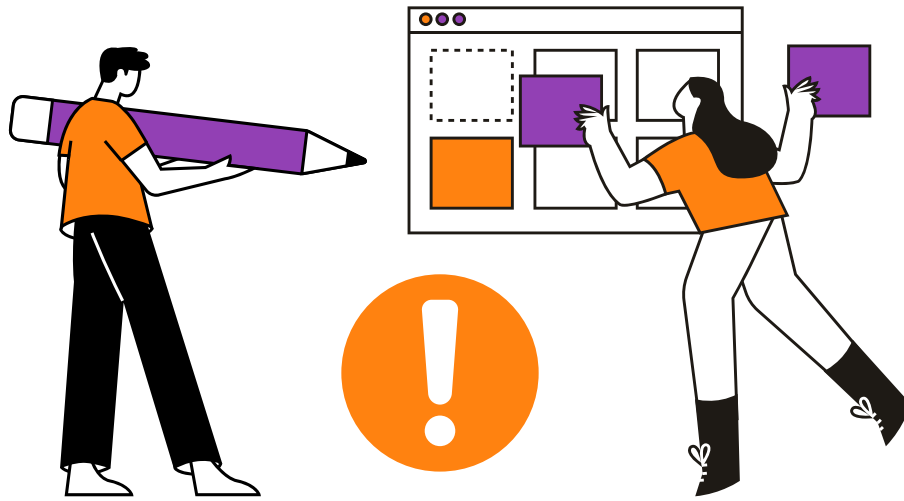
Proofread for grammar, punctuation, and structure.

Seek feedback from peers or mentors.



WRITER'S CHECKLIST

- Have I followed the contest guidelines?
- Does my research align with my main idea?
- Am I using reliable resources?
- Is my article engaging and well-organized?
- Did I check spelling, grammar, and punctuation?
- Did I cite my sources properly to avoid plagiarism?
- Have I received feedback from someone else?
- Do I need to add information?
- Do I need to remove information?
- Am I proud of my work and ready to submit?



DISCLAIMER/WAIVER

By signing this form, I, along with my parent or guardian, agree to and acknowledge my participation in the Inkubator Journalism Writing Contest 2025. I will submit my own original written work. I understand that my work may or may not be selected for awards, such as publication or a monetary reward. I also understand that no purchase is necessary to participate in this contest.

Terms and Conditions

1. Originality: I confirm that my submission is my own work and does not infringe on others' rights.
2. Content Guidelines: My submission will be family-friendly and suitable for all ages.
3. Publication Rights: I grant InkLink, Incubator, NLL Inc., and their subsidiaries a royalty-free license to publish my submission in print, digital, or other formats at their discretion.
4. Liability Release: I release InkLink, Incubator, NLL Inc., their subsidiaries, officers, owners, employees, volunteers, and affiliates from any claims or liabilities arising from my participation or the use of my submission.

By signing below, I acknowledge I have read, understood, and agree to these terms.

Participant Information

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Information (if participant is under 18)

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

THANK YOU TO OUR

SPONSORS

