

New Mexico English Expo and the New Mexico Press Women

proudly offer a special contest to NM students, grades 6-12

Profiles in Courageous Communication

Celebrating 75 years of the New Mexico Press Women!

Contest Requirements:

Individual students will research and write an essay **highlighting a courageous woman in communications** and then present this essay in an oral presentation which will take place at the NM English Expo 2024 starting at 12 noon on Saturday, Feb. 24, 2024, at Atrisco Heritage High School. This oral presentation can be made in person or via Zoom. Both the quality of the essay and the oral presentation will be part of the overall score for each individual student.

This woman can be from New Mexico, the United States, or the world. The rule is that the woman must be (or have been) involved in the business of communications, such as a reporter, photographer, editor, camera operator, advertising, designer, writer, broadcaster or journalism educator. This woman may be alive or dead. The student's essay **MUST** be sure to clarify how this woman contributed to the field of communications in a courageous way and what her specific role in the communications field is/was.

Finished essays should be typed double spaced in 12 point Times New Roman with one-inch margins on all four sides. **Essays may not exceed 500 words.** The essay should include a **cover sheet** with the student's name, school, grade, email, and phone number, as well as the sponsoring teacher's name and email. Students **may** include a separate sheet listing the sources for the students' research, using MLA style. This resource list cannot exceed one page and is **NOT** required.

The **oral presentation** cannot use any audiovisual aids or posters and **must conclude in three (3) minutes.** Students are encouraged to practice their presentation in order to meet this time limit. The topic of the presentation should be the same courageous woman in communications who is discussed in the submitted essay.

All students in NM schools (public, private, and/or charter) in grades 6-12 are eligible to compete. Home-schooled students (grades 6-12) may compete with the home school supervisor/parent signing the entry form in lieu of the teacher/administrator.

A rubric for the scoring of the essay and the oral presentation is included in this packet and should be used as a student completes his/her work.

Contest Submission Rules:

Completed essays must be submitted as PDFs to Pat Graff at PGraff@aol.com NO LATER THAN 8 p.m. MST on Friday, Feb. 16. Late entries cannot be accepted. Completed essays must be accompanied by a **completed and signed entry form**, also due at 8 p.m. MST on Friday, Feb. 16. Contest sponsors are NOT responsible for last-minute submission issues. Students are encouraged to **submit earlier** than the final deadline time and date. An email will be sent acknowledging the receipt of the completed essay and form.

Students will be notified of their oral presentation time no later than Tuesday, Feb. 20. ALL oral presentations will be made 12-2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 24, either in person at Atrisco Heritage Academy High School in Albuquerque OR by a Zoom link. The student is responsible for having the necessary device and internet connection to log in to the Zoom meeting. Failure to make an oral presentation will result in the disqualification of the essay.

Winners will be notified by March 1, 2024.

Contest Winners:

Champions will be named at both the junior level (grades 6-8) and the senior level (grades 9-12)

Winners in each category will be **invited to read their winning essays at the 2024 NMPW Conference in March 2024.** The conference is March 15-16, 2024, at Isleta Resort, just south of Albuquerque. Specific times for the presentation will be shared with the winners.

Winners in each category will also receive a cash prize of \$100. As a professional organization of communicators, NMPW members insist that these contest winners be paid for their work, just as other professionals are.

NOTE: This competition is being held as a joint activity between NM English Expo and NM Press Women. It is NOT an official English Expo contest, so no English Expo medals will be awarded.

Questions about the rules, topic, submission requirements, or oral presentation? Please contact Pat Graff, English Expo Contest Director, at PGraff@aol.com.

Profiles in Courageous Communication Contest Cover Sheet

NOTE: This cover sheet is required to accompany EACH student essay and must be filled out completely by the student and the sponsoring teacher/administrator.

Student Name _____

Student Grade ____ Check: ____ Junior Division (grades 6-8) ____ Senior Division (grades 9-12)

School _____

School District: _____

(or, if home schooled, please indicate)

Student Email _____ Student Phone _____

Sponsoring Teacher/ Administrator: _____

Sponsor Email _____ Sponsor Phone _____

Emails or phone numbers will NOT be published and will only be used for needed contacts.

Courageous Woman in Communications being highlighted: _____

This woman's role in communications: _____

Student and Sponsor: Please read the following statement, sign, and date.

This work is an ORIGINAL work completed by the below signed student which does not use material from other sources unless cited and quoted in the work. This work profiles an individual woman for her courageous work in communications. The work is 500 words or less and is submitted in the proper format as a PDF.

The student writer acknowledges that s/he will also do an oral presentation about this essay's topic or no more than three (3) minutes on Saturday, Feb. 24, 2024, either in person at the NM English Expo at Atrisco Heritage Academy High School in Albuquerque OR via a Zoom presentation. Presentations will be scheduled between 12- 2 p.m. that day. If presenting virtually, the student is responsible for having the appropriate devices and internet connections to do the presentation at the scheduled time. The student writer, if chosen as the division champion, will be invited to present his/her essay at the 2024 convention of the New Mexico Press Women.

As a signee of this document, I agree with all of the above statements.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Sponsor Signature _____ Date _____

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Scoring Rubric

Essay	Points Possible	Points Earned
Topic is relevant	5	
Featured woman's role is clear	20	
Featured woman's courageous work is highlighted	20	
Organization	5	
Mechanics	5	
Total	55	

Oral Presentation	Points Possible	Points Earned
Topic is relevant	5	
Featured woman's role is clear	15	
Featured woman's courageous work is highlighted	15	
Presentation skills	10	
Total	45	

Total Points