Broadcast Journalist of the Year – 2020

Judging comments by Aaron Manfull

Winner: Bella Rulon

Honorable Mention: Grayson Blalock

Overall comments: In an extra challenging year it was so great to see so many good entries here. Each participant showcased entries that were professional and geared toward their different audiences. There was a nice variety of video storytelling forms from anchoring and editing to filming and reporting. The top portfolios showcased the reporters diverse skill sets as well as strong stories.

Individual Comments:

Hadassah Nix: Really nice work here with your stories. You did a nice job with your voiceover work and I really enjoyed the B4B piece you put together. It was edited well and you had some really nice shots and interviews throughout. I also thought your PSA was put together really well. You did a great job communicating the story through music and visuals only. If there are a couple pieces of advice I could give, it would be to work to develop some more sequences within your filming. String together wide, medium and tight shots more to make stronger visual sequences and in your writing, work to avoid editorializing.

Bella Rulon: Really great job with your portfolio submission here. It was great to see a diverse portfolio of work where you had everything from feature stories and news stories to anchoring and filming. Your two feature stories were really solid with a nice execution of subtitles in Rehan's Wish and I'm sure the school community really liked the feature piece on Ms. Hall. I thought the two news stories were timely topics that were very relevant to your audience and you had some good reporting within both of those. Nice to see you on the anchor desk as well showing the diverse skill set you bring to the table. With filming, work to build more sequence of wide, medium and tight shots with your scenes and keep in mind that more always isn't better. Work to make sure that each piece that you leave in a story is essential to the story overall and isn't repetitive or a deviation from the tight focus you come up with. Overall, really nice job.

Grayson Blalock: Really nice job with your portfolio here, Grayson. You have a very strong and diverse body of work that you should be very proud of. You do a great job with your sports broadcasting. You sound very comfortable in that position and I thought your work behind the mic was great. Was nice to see you on the anchor desk and you did a good job with the story entry as well. I would have liked to see something different than the Senior Farewell video from you. I would have liked to see you do something other than read a story and if you were going with edits from multiple locations and this is about the senior class, it would have been good to include more than one person visually in the piece.  Overall, it was a really solid portfolio though and you should be proud of it.

Lincoln Roch: Nice work with your submission this year. You've got a great start on a solid portfolio. It's nice to see all the different stories you included as you had nice variety in subjects and some strong editing. In the future, I would work to showcase each video separately instead of as a reel. This will allow you to talk about each video in a description area so you can tell people what your role is with the video and why you chose it for submission. Also, be careful with image copyright. For instance, I see some images from places like KTVC and Click on Detroit and it's not entirely clear whether you got their written permission to use those images. In description areas, you could easily clear that up. Just make sure you aren't borrowing images from other outlets or websites without written permission as that's a copyright infringement. Overall, nice start to things here and good luck with your senior year.