NRB 2026

12-hour News Challenge Details

Registration Deadline: 01/30/2026

THE CHALLENGE
Want to test your skills and creativity? Here's an opportunity to compete with other Christian college students across the country.

Teams of college students of 1-3 (max.) students per team will **produce an original video news package within a 12-hour time frame** while at the NRB 2026 in Nashville, TN.

All teams will gather on **Tuesday, February 17th at 8:30 AM** for the challenge Kick-Off. The official challenge **will begin promptly at 9:00 AM** and last **until Tuesday, February 17th, at 9:00 PM.**

ELIGIBILITY
This contest is open to all Full Member Educational Institutions with communications or film programs or student-run broadcasts.

AWARDS & PRESENTATIONS
First place, Second, and Third place winners will be presented certificates.

NEWS SEGMENT COMPONENTS
Each team will submit a news package (story only, no anchor wrap-around). Each team will be presented with a story prompt at the morning "news meeting" during the challenge Kick-Off. The challenge coordinator will serve as producer to all participants during the day to hear story pitches and guide the process. The news segment must be created during the official 12-hour period and have a **duration between 2-4 minutes.**

TARGET AUDIENCE
The target audience is NRB Convention attendees.

CHALLENGE RULES

- All team members must be present at the Kick-Off on Tuesday, February 17th, at 8:30 AM.
- Each team consists of 1-3 members. A participant may compete alone.
- Each team will turn in a single video file with a **total run time between 2-4 minutes.**

- All creative activities must take place during the **12-hour period**. This includes, but is not limited to, scriptwriting, rehearsing, video recording, interviewing, and editing.
- Use of purchased/free stock footage and images is not allowed. You may only use original footage shot on site. Music is likewise not permitted unless captured on location as part of the location shoot and then should be used sparingly.
- No news segment may incorporate unauthorized use of copyrighted content from another broadcast, film, video, song, picture, or composition. Song recordings or SFX must be public domain, or you should have the appropriate rights to use them.
- Appropriate ID tags, lower thirds, and graphics in each segment are a must. You are free to use your school's own newscast graphics, the iNRB/NRB logo graphics that will be provided at the event, or template graphics that come standard in non-linear editing software.
- Each team must provide its own equipment to record and edit its submission.
- **Faculty advisers may <u>not</u> participate in any creative component of pre-production, production, or post-production work. This includes acting, directing, shooting, writing, lighting, editing, lending voice, giving creative suggestions, etc. Faculty advisers may <u>only</u> perform administrative duties such as processing paperwork or acquiring legal permission for filming at locations selected by the student crew. The news challenge coordinator/producer is the only resource you may consult beyond your team members.**
- Each news segment submission must uphold Christian values and should not contain any content which iNRB/NRB might deem offensive (sexism, racism, strong language, sexually explicit material, etc.).
- You may choose to record inside the hotel, outside the hotel, or in greater convention area. When filming on the hotel grounds, you may only film in the areas pre- assigned to NRB. If you choose to record on private property outside the hotel or throughout the immediate area, you are expected to obtain appropriate permission from the property manager.
- Students are expected to create their projects in a professional manner, abiding by legal and industry standards of excellence. Therefore, all student teams should identify what they are doing as news coverage related to the NRB Convention for possible public distribution. Signed releases are not required for journalistic work, but consent is implied when someone appears on camera and the reporter/photojournalist have identified themselves. Students should also take care with b-roll shots to avoid putting someone on camera who objects.
- Neither iNRB or NRB is responsible for damages or injuries that occur inside or outside the hotel during the 12hr News Challenge.
- Each entrant agrees and grants iNRB/NRB permission to make available and display/perform and distribute entrants' names, photographs, likeness, voice, school, testimonials, and news segment submission in printed, broadcast, and/or new media, in perpetuity, in any manner they deem appropriate without compensation. All videos become the property of iNRB/NRB.

- **WHEN YOUR PROJECT IS FINISHED:**
    - **The team will have to provide its own flash drive. Make sure your USB flash drive works well.**
    - **Deliver your project in person to the designated iNRB/NRB staff no later than 9:00 PM on Tuesday, February 17th**. Late entries will not be eligible for prizes; they may be screened at the discretion of the judges, but this is not guaranteed.
    - **Your news package may not be posted or aired on any website until after the convention is over and the winners have been announced.**

JUDGING CRITERIA

The following general criteria will be used:

- ***Newsworthiness:*** Does the story covered have an impact on its audience? Is it an issue people care about or need to know about? How does it relate to the overall NRB Convention and those attending?
- ***Storytelling/Writing:*** Does the story capture and express the importance of the issue or topic being covered in a way that is compelling for the viewer? Is the story written in present tense, active voice, and a conversational language? Does it take complex information or data and make it easy to understand? How does it weave the elements of natural sound, B-roll, and soundbites together?
- ***Audio:*** Is the overall sound quality good? Are audio elements properly selected and utilized? Are the soundbites easy to understand? Does the natural sound make sense when/where it is used? Is the reporter's voice track quality clear? Do the soundbites complement the reporter voice track?
- ***Video:*** Overall, is the news package shot well? Is the video compelling (not just wallpaper video)? Is there visual appeal? Do the shots selected make sense? Are the interviews framed well? Does the standup add to the story rather than just being part of it?
- ***Editing:*** From a technical standpoint, are the video and audio elements properly edited together? Does the editing add to or take away from the quality of the story?
- ***Graphics*****:** Any graphics used (name supers/cg or GFX pages) should have 100-percent proper spelling. Do the fonts/letter size/color speak to a quality news package? Do the GFX pages help to tell the story and break down complex information or data?
- ***Length*****:** Was the project's total run time within the specified challenge requirements?
- ***Adherence to Other Overall Rules*****:** Is it clear that the students read, understood, and met all other challenge rules and requirements for this project?

The decisions are at the complete discretion of the judges, and all decisions are final.

Keep in mind that judges will base their scores on the criteria listed above. To increase your chances of winning, produce your project to this grading rubric. In prior challenges, the submission with the best overall "production value and look" has not always won the contest. This is because it likely was not created with all judging criteria in mind.