

# UIL Journalism

Preparing for the UIL Spring Meet Academic Contests



The purpose of UIL journalism isn't to train you how to become a reporter or editor. It's to teach you to think deeply and write clearly under pressure for an audience of your peers.





## Nuts & Bolts



- You must know the difference between a news story, an editorial and a feature story.
- What are the distinguishing characteristics of each?
- What is permissible in an editorial that is not permissible in a feature or news story?

# What is the purpose of your Editorial?



- Are you arguing a principle?
- Are you advocating a new position?
- Are you protesting a decision?
- Are you opposing a plan or proposal?
- Are you trying to change public opinion?
- **Bottom line: what are you trying to get done?**



## Typical **Feature** Situation

The prompt deals with a senior, Jason White, who almost lost his life while backpacking in a national forest in Wyoming over spring break. He was alone and lost, and he tripped and twisted his right ankle trying to leap a stream. His cell phone ran out of power. To make matters worse, a winter storm rolled through, sending the temperatures plummeting. Jason thought he was going to freeze or be killed by wild animals.



# Basics of **Headline** Writing



**Keep it simple: noun, verb, object. In a basic news story, ask: who did what? Write your headline from that. For example:**

Write a 1-line headline counting 26-32

The school district is considering pushing back the starting time for its high school in response to research about adolescents' need for more sleep. The school board will hear a proposal Monday to start high school classes next fall at 8:30 a.m. rather than 7:25 a.m. If the proposal is approved, fall classes would end at 3:10 p.m. instead of 2:05 p.m.





## Answer all news questions

**Who:**

The School Board

**What:**

Discussed the off-campus lunch policy, then voted to discontinue the policy of allowing students to leave the campus for lunch. Lunch is noon to 12:45 p.m.

**When:**

7:30 p.m. Tuesday

**Where:**

Quote sources accurately and fully.

**Why:**

Because of reports of students leaving campus during lunch to use alcohol, tobacco and/or drugs.

**Impact:**

The decision will go into effect the first day of class next fall.

