

# JOURNALISM



Texas UIL

## High School Practice Packet

Spring 2021



# UIL JOURNALISM PRACTICE PACKET

## Spring 2021

Written by

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**Susan Duncan**, MJE, is a retired journalism teacher who currently works for a community newspaper where she does a little bit of whatever needs to be done. Duncan began writing for her hometown newspaper as soon as she graduated high school and has been writing ever since. She advised 29 yearbooks and 15 years of newspapers, both in print and online. She is the convention director for the Texas Association of Journalism Educators and was recognized with their Texas Treasure award in 2019. She is a past president of TAJE and winner of the Edith Fox King Award and the UIL Sponsor Excellence Award.

Professional journalist and former High School journalism teacher **Suzanne Bardwell** and her husband Jim, own Bardwell INK, LLC which produces three community newspapers. Bardwell's former students consistently qualified and excelled in state UIL/ILPC competition. Her High School yearbook program received ILPC's Lone Star award for over a decade of excellence. She has taught workshops for ILPC, CSPA, NSPA, Balfour and Herff-Jones publishing. Bardwell received ILPC's Max R. Haddick Journalism Teacher of the Year for Texas, the Edith Fox King award and Texas Exes Excellence in Teaching award. She currently serves on the Texas Press Association's Legislative Action Committee and as scholarship chair for the North & East Texas Press Association.

*We are a small company that listens! If you have any questions or if there is an area that you would like fully explored, let us hear from you. We hope you enjoy this product and stay in contact with us throughout your academic journey.*

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## UIL JOURNALISM PRACTICE PACKET – Spring 2021



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  - Each Test Includes:
    - Copy Editing
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    - Feature Writing
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    - News Writing
- 4. Answer Key (provided for Copy Editing section only)**
- 5. Student Entry Sheets (provided for Headline Writing section only)**

**Evaluation Sheet for JOURNALISM - HEADLINE WRITING (p.1 of 2)**

Headline 1	Fair	Good	Excellent
The writer uses specific and accurate wording.			
The writer uses strong action verbs, focusing on present or future.			
Headline is unique and fits the mood of the story.			
Split phrases are avoided.			
Headline is within the count. (Headlines over the count are disqualified).			
Grammar, spelling, and punctuation are correct.			
<b>SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT:</b>			

Headline 2	Fair	Good	Excellent
The writer uses specific and accurate wording.			
The writer uses strong action verbs, focusing on present or future.			
Headline is unique and fits the mood of the story.			
Split phrases are avoided.			
Headline is within the count. (Headlines over the count are disqualified).			
Grammar, spelling, and punctuation are correct.			
<b>SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT:</b>			

Headline 3	Fair	Good	Excellent
The writer uses specific and accurate wording.			
The writer uses strong action verbs, focusing on present or future.			
Headline is unique and fits the mood of the story.			
Split phrases are avoided.			
Headline is within the count. (Headlines over the count are disqualified).			
Grammar, spelling, and punctuation are correct.			
<b>SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT:</b>			

**PART 3:** In the space provided, edit the following news brief to make the wording clear, to eliminate wordiness as well as any errors in AP style, grammar, spelling or punctuation. You do NOT have to rewrite the news brief. Make notes of anything you believe needs clarification, additional research or additional reporting.

Due to the increase of the number of the coronavirus in america, the Centre for Disease Control recommends that all parks and playgrounds close for at lest the next three weeks. The C.D.C. will reexamine the numbers of cases after three weeks to make further recommendations. Follownig the govenment's lead, the Leaguetown school board voted to close all campus playgrounds beginning January 2.

"I do not think it will be that much of an issue since very few parents and students use the playgrounds after school during such cold whether," superintendent Brian White said. "Hopefully, we can open the playfrounds again before the time of peek usage occurs."

The walking trails that wind through the school campuses will remain open for now, White said, as long as residents practice social distancing.

Playgrounds will be closed for K-6 studnets through the school day, since keeping the playground equipment disinfected throughout the day would be difficult.

"You would have to live untder a rock not to know what the CDC says," board member Rita Heworth said. "If they're's a way to keep our kids safe by keeping them off the equipment and ballfields that is what we need to do. Our kids will follow the rules if we make them clear."

Teachers are planning additional craft activities and movement exercises sooted to their classrooms to make up for recess time. Anyone who would like to donate crafting items should contact the elementry school office.



# feature *writing*

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**You are a reporter for the Leaguetown Press.**

The Leaguetown Press is the student newspaper of Leaguetown High School.

You are a student at Leaguetown High School.

From the following information, write a feature story for the Leaguetown Press, your high school newspaper.

Do not write your name or the name of your school on this sheet or your entry. Put only your number on your feature.

**You have 60 minutes.**

Good luck.

The Leaguetown Hawks football team won the regional semifinal UIL game last year and hopes to continue its success this season. Junior running back Jason Wilson, who gained 1,489 yards and scored 19 touchdowns last season, led the team in rushing; however, Wilson was forced to medically retire from the Hawks football team effective Sept. 1 due to a heart condition diagnosed in late August.

Hawks coach James Franks announced Wilson's inability to play football this season on Monday. You are writing for the Leaguetown Press' Sept. 18 edition to be distributed Friday.

▪ **JASON WILSON, senior running back**

"I finally had the opportunity to showcase what I was born to do and set myself up to achieve my lifelong dream of playing college football if I had a good season this fall. Unfortunately, that dream will never be realized after I received this heart diagnosis that is forcing me to quit playing football. I can't really explain the loss I am feeling at this moment because playing football was a large part of who I am. I will have to find something else that challenges me in the same way football does. However, I can walk away from the game knowing I truly gave my all at every practice, on every down and in the locker room every day."

"My teammates and coach have been super supportive, and the golf coach has talked to me about possibly joining the golf team so that I can learn the game in the fall and play during the spring UIL season. I'm thinking about taking him up on the offer because I have to do something competitive. I can't just sit on the couch. It's not who I am. I will miss my football family. Maybe they will let me hang out on the sidelines and travel with the team in some compacity."

▪ **JOHN FRANKLIN, football coach and athletic director**

"We learned about Jason's diagnosis, and we've been working through this and dealing with this as a team. Jason is one of the most popular and respected players on our team. The entire organization has rallied behind him and his family. His contributions to the team will be missed, especially his leadership. He leaves really large shoes to fill."

## HEADLINE WRITING ENTRY SHEET

All letters (upper and lower case), numbers, punctuation marks, symbols and spaces count as one (1).

Place one letter or other unit in the appropriate space below. Leave spaces between words.

The number of lines you are given on this sheet corresponds to the number of lines required for each headline.

Write your number in the upper right-hand corner of both sides of this sheet.

## HEADLINE ONE

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

## HEADLINE TWO

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

### HEADLINE THREE

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32