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JOURNALISM Practice Packet



Spring 2022 | High School

editorials • features • headlines
news writing • copy editing



JOURNALISM PRACTICE PACKET

Spring 2022

Written by

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Susan Duncan, MJE, is a retired journalism teacher who currently does freelance writing and design. 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 a past president of the Texas Association of Journalism Educators, who recognized her with their Texas Treasure award in 2019. She is also a UIL Edith Fox King Award recipient and a UIL Sponsor Excellence Award recipient.

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.

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— Linda Tarrant, President Hexco Inc.

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JOURNALISM PRACTICE PACKET – Spring 2022



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editorial *writing*

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 an editorial 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 editorial.

You have 45 minutes.

Good luck.

Leaguetown High School has a student population of 1,072 students and is located in Central Texas.

After the impact of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and shutdowns on the student body, the Student Council is proposing a calendar of spirit weeks with one a month to improve student morale and re-engage students in school life and with each other. The LHS principal will make the decision which will be announced at the first pep rally on Friday afternoon. You are writing for Thursday's issue of the LHS newspaper.

FOR APPROVAL OF THE SPIRIT WEEK PROPOSAL

With sports and social activities limited for so long, the planned spirit weeks will not only re-engage students with school and each other, it will help them to re-center around LHS and all it has to offer. Each spirit week will be tied to a community service project which will help give purpose and meaning to the fun activities planned. The spirit weeks will also provide a way for students to release stress in a positive way while making a difference in the community.

AGAINST THE SPIRIT WEEK PROPOSAL

A week of activities every month will distract students from learning. There is already a huge learning gap as a result of the pandemic shutdown. Virtual learning was not a successful tool for the majority of students as demonstrated in benchmark testing at the beginning of school. Dress-up days and class competitions will distract students from classroom focus. Many of the students, especially the younger ones, are too immature to handle the spirit weeks and manage their academic performance.

▪ DIANA HALE, LHS StuCo sponsor

"Our kids have missed out on a great deal since COVID-19 struck. With school shutdowns, then social distancing, masking and elimination of many of their normal activities, these kids have taken a real hit to their psyches. They need laughter and engagement with each other added back to their lives. This is one way to do it and tie the weeks to monthlong service projects such as food, coat, book, shoe and blood drives. Giving is a great way to get over the isolation and have a whole lot of fun at the same time."

"I am humbled beyond words by this honor," Westwood said. "I have spent the last 40 years of my life at LISD, and I have worked with all ages and grades. I am going to miss these kids, but I want more time to spend with my own grandkids."

The gym's new name will be displayed in large white metal letters which will be lit at night.

"Ms. Westwood gave her energy, her expertise and her life to this district," Dr. Sara Rowan, superintendent, said. "She deserves this honor."

Story 4—Write a 1-line main headline with a count of 10-15 and a 2-line secondary headline with a count of 24-31 on each line.

After senior Sergio Gonzalez was paralyzed in a car accident during his junior year, his friends committed to making sure he didn't miss out on any high school memories. They take him to all the high school athletic events, plays, dances and more. The friends' story has resulted in a sponsored trip during spring break to Walt Disney World in Florida for the boys' two families by the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

"I truly have the best friends in the world," Gonzalez said. "They don't just take me everywhere they go, they know how to help with my medical needs as well. I can honestly say they made the difference in me being able to accept my situation."

Gonzalez's best friend, Derek Smith, has even equipped his truck with special equipment to secure Gonzalez' wheelchair.

"Friends, real ones, are hard to come by in this life," Smith said. "There was a time when I reached rock bottom, and Sergio pulled me through it. I could do no less for him."

Story 5—Write a main headline with a count between 7-15 and a 2-line secondary headline with a count between 25-31 on each line.

Racing is in the blood for LHS senior Casie Pulease. Her father was a NASCAR driver, and her grandfather raced Formula One cars. She learned from them how to service her own car, and together they built her hot pink race car. Now Pulease has her ambitions set on becoming a professional NASCAR driver.

"Casie has learned to build a car from the pavement up," her father Dan Pulease said. "We know that she is smart and capable. She doesn't take unnecessary risks. I am very proud of her."

Pulease traveled to Boothill Speedway in Greenwood, Louisiana, last week where she won in the Junior Ragin' Cajun series.

"I am so excited; I just found out today that Mary Kay Cosmetics wants to sponsor me," Pulease said. "They will pay for their logo to go on my hood and trunk and will cover my travel costs to races. Getting my first corporate sponsor is making it possible for me to make more races and attract more sponsors. Being a girl in a hot pink car draws a lot of attention, and sponsors are looking for that kind of notice."

Story 6—Write a main headline with a count between 10-15 and a 2-line secondary headline with a count between 21-31.

LaMinda Schreiber, a professional artist with a graduate degree, has been hired as the new LHS art teacher. Her work has won numerous awards, and her art shows sell out.

"My artist friends keep asking me why I am saddling myself with a teaching position when my art actually can support me," Schreiber said. "The truth is that I have always been drawn to teaching. I think that it may be my calling."

2 / Headline Writing – **SPRING 2022-D**

LHS is renovating the art classroom and lab so that Schreiber's students can pursue more sophisticated projects including sculpture, pottery and oil painting. The curriculum is being upgraded as well.

"I will be able to offer Art I, II, III and IV," Schreiber said. "By the time I get Art IV students, I expect to be working with some very real talent. I plan to help them pursue art scholarships, hold local shows of their work and create a summer gallery where their work can be sold. I am all-in."

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
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HEADLINE TWO

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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
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