

2. Journalism

The primary reason for journalism is communication. Human beings are by nature curious and, unlike any other animal except monkeys, can spend hours watching the doings of others of their own species. Almost all people feel a need to know, and there are others who feel the need to tell them. This is what we call "news" if it is happening currently, and "history" if it happened at some time in the past.

Closely related to news reporting is documentation. This includes not only the scores of last night's football game, but as many facts as you can gather about each event at school, even the less popular ones.

A third purpose is to provide background information about people, events or places. This often takes the form of feature articles.

Another function is to entertain. Photographers and designers as well as writers help to provide enjoyment for their audiences.

In addition, an increasingly important role is in helping to influence opinion. Speaking out on important topics has always been the prerogative of the editorial page.

As high school journalists, you will no doubt be involved in all of these aspects of communication. If you are to be a valuable and contributing member of your publications staff, it is important that you apply everything you can learn about the craft of journalism as you go about your business, whether as a writer, designer, photographer or a computer operator.

What your goals should be:

- to understand what's going on at your school
- to develop more accurate writing skills
- to develop the ability to be perceptive, giving the reader a sense of being there with you
- to interpret adults to students, and students to adults
- to inform readers of events outside of school which affect them
- to keep informed of important events, trends, personalities that affect youth, the school or people in general
- to be constantly improving and expanding

A good journalist is a(n):

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|-------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| —preserver | —conservator | —researcher | —definer |
| —chronicler | —campaigner | —analyst | —investigator |
| | —detailer | —advocate | |

ASNE STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

ASNE's Statement of Principles was originally adopted in 1922 as the "Canons of Journalism." The document was revised and renamed "Statement of Principles" in 1975.

PREAMBLE. The First Amendment, protecting freedom of expression from abridgment by any law, guarantees to the people through their press a constitutional right, and thereby places on newspaper people a particular responsibility. Thus journalism demands of its practitioners not only industry and knowledge but also the pursuit of a standard of integrity proportionate to the journalist's singular obligation. To this end the American Society of Newspaper Editors sets forth this Statement of Principles as a standard encouraging the highest ethical and professional performance.

ARTICLE I - Responsibility. The primary purpose of gathering and distributing news and opinion is to serve the general welfare by informing the people and enabling them to make judgments on the issues of the time. Newspapermen and women who abuse the power of their professional role for selfish motives or unworthy purposes are faithless to that public trust. The American press was made free not just to inform or just to serve as a forum for debate but also to bring an independent scrutiny to bear on the forces of power in the society, including the conduct of official power at all levels of government.

ARTICLE II - Freedom of the Press. Freedom of the press belongs to the people. It must be defended against encroachment or assault from any quarter, public or private. Journalists must be constantly alert to see that the public's business is conducted in public. They must be vigilant against all who would exploit the press for selfish purposes.

ARTICLE III - Independence. Journalists must avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety as well as any conflict of interest or the appearance of conflict. They should neither accept anything nor pursue any activity that might compromise or seem to compromise their integrity.

ARTICLE IV - Truth and Accuracy. Good faith with the reader is the foundation of good journalism. Every effort must be made to assure that the news content

is accurate, free from bias and in context, and that all sides are presented fairly. Editorials, analytical articles and commentary should be held to the same standards of accuracy with respect to facts as news reports. Significant errors of fact, as well as errors of omission, should be corrected promptly and prominently.

ARTICLE V - Impartiality. To be impartial does not require the press to be unquestioning or to refrain from editorial expression. Sound practice, however, demands a clear distinction for the reader between news reports and opinion. Articles that contain opinion or personal interpretation should be clearly identified.

ARTICLE VI - Fair Play. Journalists should respect the rights of people involved in the news, observe the common standards of decency and stand accountable to the public for the fairness and accuracy of their news reports. Persons publicly accused should be given the earliest opportunity to respond. Pledges of confidentiality to news sources must be honored at all costs, and therefore should not be given lightly. Unless there is clear and pressing need to maintain confidences, sources of information should be identified.

These principles are intended to preserve, protect and strengthen the bond of trust and respect between American journalists and the American people, a bond that is essential to sustain the grant of freedom entrusted to both by the nation's founders.

The College Board found that among the five most popular activities for students with a 5/5 on the AP English test: journalism. This was in 2000. - College Board

"Strong correlation between high school journalism and college success." - Mayhew, Lewis B. *Colleges Today and Tomorrow*, 1982

"Ivy Leagues look at your extracurriculars, and what they are. Producing the yearbook often shows a lot more responsibility than being in a chess club." - Harper Collins Magazine, 1994

"Journalism is among the five high school activities most likely to suggest college success." - Michigan Association for College Admissions Counseling

"Journalism is an essential high school activity that directly leads to higher rates of college acceptance and higher salaries in high-growth industry fields." - Michigan Governor's Office

"Recruitment of minority editors of their high school newspaper by Princeton and other elite schools." - Diversity Web



"Our students—many of whom had never considered applying to top-tier colleges and universities have enrolled at schools such as Stanford, the University of Pennsylvania, Cornell, Williams, Chicago, Pomona, Johns Hopkins, Vanderbilt and NYU." - Princeton Summer Journalism Program

With our encouragement, one student from our inaugural summer received a full scholarship to Bowdoin where he has enjoyed success in broadcast journalism; in 2004 and 2005, he returned to Princeton to serve as one of our counselors - Princeton Summer Journalism Program

"Before the program, my dream was to attend college, and the program helped me to transform that dream into a reality. It also made me realize that with my skills and intellectual curiosity, I could attend one of the elite schools in America. The dire conditions of my neighborhood made me feel as if I was caught in a trap that would take a strong will, hard work, education and opportunity to escape. And the summer program provided the opportunity that I needed to extricate myself from my seemingly predetermined future of poverty and hardship . . . Next fall I will be the general manager for the Bowdoin Cable Network and this summer I will be an intern at NBC in Portland, Maine." -Dotan Johnson, Princeton Summer Journalism Program

"The journalism program is what pushed me to apply to the Ivy League and now with my acceptance to one, it has set the path for next four years of my life. Making it into Cornell is . . . a great accomplishment because I am the first in my high school's history to be admitted into an Ivy League college. Thank you and may you continue to do for others what you have done for me." - Ariel Estevez, Princeton Summer Journalism Program

"Students in a successful journalism program are 70 percent more likely to get into an ivy league college." - College Confidential