

Contest D :: Yearbook Copy

2018 KSPA Regional Contest



DIRECTIONS

Failure to follow these directions may result in disqualification from the contest without refund. **Please read, listen and follow carefully.**

1. Please complete the first page of the packet, including your school code and your name using the bubble chart provided.
2. Please take time to write your student code in the top right corner of each page you will use for your writing in this contest.
3. Please do not include your name or the name of your high school on the entry at all. If you do, your entry will be disqualified.
4. You are to write a yearbook feature story of approximately 250 words.
 - a. Please use the information provided below. The writer should determine which information is relevant and important to the story. Students may write in pencil or pen. Students may use dictionary, thesaurus and/or the Associated Press style manual. The use of personal listening devices, recording devices, cell phones, computers or other electronics is prohibited.
5. When you are finished with the writing, please bring this entire packet to the proctors at the front of the room **and remain at the table until they have checked your entry.**
6. Please leave the room quietly. Congratulations on writing well done!

DESCRIPTION

You are a member of Sunflower High School's journalism staff. Your editor has asked you to write a story for the yearbook.

SCHOOL INFO

Name: Sunflower High School

Location: Clinton, Kansas

Mascot: Mighty Buffalo

Enrollment: 800 (grades 9-12)

School colors: yellow and brown

Yearbook: The Sunflower

Newspaper: Sunflower News

Contest Info

This is an on-site contest.

Do not put your name on the entry.

If you do, your entry will be disqualified.

Students may not request help or advice from any person other than the KSPA Executive Director Eric Thomas at

staff@kspaonline.org, and that advice must be requested before the start of the contest.

All work must be solely that of the contestant.

Quotes from Mandy Dawson, Sophomore at Sunflower High School

- “As far as I know, it’s only been done once before, but this was my first study showing that cats respond to music at all. Tabby was responding to the music, so I tested it out of my friends’ cats, as well. It has to be properly designed and delivered in cat terms. This is way more fun than my homework, that’s for sure.”
- “I grew up with loving of music, which is why I’m in band and orchestra. Matley gave us an assignment in Music Theory to tell a story based on the way music affects other people or things, so I figured why not cats? Tabby likes to sit on my bed when I’m in my room practicing trumpet, so I thought she might like the music, too.”
- “Just you wait... I think I might be a one hit wonder. Lucky for us, cats already own the Internet.”
- “I discovered if you play an actual purr, the cats will become used to it. What I’m trying to do is mess with their brains so they think, ‘I don’t know what that is, but it gets to me. It makes me feel good.’”
- “I’ve had Tabby for 7 years and another cat named Tim for 8 before that, but he died. I’ll never understand why people say dogs are better than cats.”

Benjamin Matley, music teacher at Sunflower High School

- “Mandy is one of the most creative and dedicated students I’ve had in class. Most people might find her study a little out of the ordinary, but I thought it was genius when she first wrote her proposal. In her essay, she wrote ‘I realized that I could write music that would provide a shared emotional experience for cats and their humans.’”
- “I’m very proud of the work she’s turning in. For her last submission, Mandy reached out to the most famous Internet cats, the Orlando Blooms and the Brad Pitts of Internet cats, and they welcomed her for the study. I think she’s going somewhere. I think this is an idea no one has shaped up yet, so who knows? Maybe you’ll pick up the next Music Cats EP on your Spotify playlists soon.”
- “Why do they try to de-fund the arts programs in schools when this creativity is happening? I’ve gotta tell the principal about this, that’ll show him.”

Randall Mezer, freshmen at Sunflower High School, friend of Mandy

- “I thought she was a little crazy when she called me a few months ago. She wanted to make my cat listen to a certain type of music or purr or something that would stimulate Fluffy’s mind. Do cats even think that way? I mean I guess it worked, although I don’t understand how music works the same way she does.”
- “She came over a few weeks ago to sit at home with me while conducting this experiment. Fluffy seemed a little irritated at first, but then she seemed to gain a significant amount of energy after just thirty minutes, so I’m assuming that’s a good thing.”
- “Fluffy just sleeps all day, but I have noticed that she’ll wake up for a short time if I’m listening to music while doing homework. Maybe I’ll try my own tests at home to see what she likes and what she doesn’t.”
- “It’s kind of amazing that animals respond the way that humans do to things we sometimes don’t even think about. Maybe Mandy will let me borrow her trumpet for a few days.”
- “Mr. Matley thinks Mandy is, like, a prodigy genius or something. What she’s doing is pretty cool but we’ll see where this goes.”

Facts from your research

- The name of the study is “Tunes for Tabby (and other feline creatures)”
- Mandy published the study on her Wordpress blog, www.wordpress.com/musicgirl2581, on December 8th, 2017.
- Her blog post includes 826 words, 3 charts and 12 pictures
- The pictures show Tabby and other cats before and after they listened to a particular set of songs or sounds
- Her subheading is “The power of music for animals”
- She has had 3,848 views read her blog and received 43 comments. Here is one comment: “You are explaining something I knew deep down inside about cats.”
- She organized and compared a variety of music playlists in order to stimulate a particular response from Tabby when listening to each of them
- Her charts showed the increase of energy in Tabby’s activity in the same manner of a human’s brain when listening to the music they love

