

## Contest E: Feature Writing

## STEP #1

*Check the label below. Does it have the correct school and school code on it? If not, please notify the proctor before beginning your work on the contest.*

**Don't know your code? Two options!**

- 1) Please refer to the school code on your contest ticket given to your adviser at registration.**
- 2) Please ask the proctor to provide your school code.**

**LABEL**

**for KSPA Office use only**

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1st place         | <input type="checkbox"/> disqualified |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2nd place         | <input type="checkbox"/> matched      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3rd place         | <input type="checkbox"/> spreadsheet  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Honorable Mention | <input type="checkbox"/> tweeted      |

## STEP #2

Please enter your name in the blanks below and then bubble in the corresponding letters for each letter of your name. **Note:** Please use the lines below for names with more letters than the bubbles will allow.

[illegible][illegible]

**For names with more letters than bubbles will allow (please print)**

First name	Last Name



staple me here  
please!

# Contest E :: Feature Writing

2019 KSPA State 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 school 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 story of approximately 350 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 feature story with the information provided.

## 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](mailto:staff@kspaonline.org), and that advice must be requested before the start of the contest.

All work must be solely that of the contestant.

## **You're writing a feature piece on how senior Nora Harris prepares for a future career in aviation:**

### **Interview with Nora Harris, senior at Sunflower High School**

- "My mom is a flight attendant, so I grew up around planes and pilots. I was just fascinated with flying."
- "I started studying aviation about four years ago. I study at Bruno's Air Service, with my instructor Bruno Valdez. He's amazing."
- "I'm currently trying to get my private pilot license, which means I would be able to fly without an instructor. It's sort of scary but I think I'll be ready soon."
- "Airplanes are just so mesmerizing to me. It's this huge metal aircraft that weighs tons of pounds, and it just flies in the air. Even when you are close to the process it's still hard to believe it's possible."
- "You have to be in the moment because you don't know what's going to happen, you might get a lot of turbulence and be forced to make an emergency landing and you have to be very engaged."
- "It's kinda challenging in a way, and each flight is different, you can do the same landing one hundred times in a row but each landing will be different."
- "My role model is Polly Vacher. She was the first woman to fly solo over the polar regions and she flew around the world in 2001. She also did all of her flights for the charity Flying Scholarship for the Disabled. I also, of course, look up to Amelia Earhart as well. She's an icon."
- "I don't really get nervous while I fly. Maybe that will change when I start flying solo. I get this inexplicable excitement every time I take off. There really is no way to describe it."
- "You are part of a family when you do aviation. There are many things aviation can offer, you just have to know about them. I tell a ton of kids at school about my flying lessons because I think so many people can benefit from it."
- "Only about 6% of pilots are female. I just think that's ridiculous. I'm so excited and proud to be able to one day become a female pilot and show other girls all over the world that they can do it too."
- "A lot of pilots don't love doing solo flights, they prefer to have a copilot to back them up. But I'm kinda the opposite. I don't like flying with other pilots who aren't the best at communicating where they are or what direction they're flying. It's my pet peeve."
- "I plan on becoming a pilot one day, but I'm going to go to school to study engineering. That will give me a competitive edge when I'm interviewing for pilot positions later on in life."

### **Your observations from visiting Nora's training at Bruno's Air Service**

- Nora is totally steps into the cockpit with a hand on on the fuselage of the plane to give her an assist. She takes her cell phone out of her pocket and powers it off. She leans forward looking in detail at the gauges. Then she closes her eyes, takes three deep breaths and rubs a crucifix in between her fingers of her right hand. She is wearing sneakers -- the same ones she wears to gym class at school. She fiddles with a loose string on the upholstery of her pilot's seat. As she puts on her headset, a small private jet touches down on the runway visible through the front window. The sun is setting as she taxis to the west down the runway. She pulls on her sunglasses and says, "This. This is why I love to fly. Days like today. Later tonight I have a Environmental club meeting and a calculus homework. So that kind of stinks, you know."

### **Facts from interview with Nora**

- Nora has been studying aviation for the past four years at Bruno's Air Service with her instructor Bruno Valdez. She plans on going to college next year and studying engineering.
- Nora's mother, Jennifer, is a flight attendant with Great Plain Airlines. Jennifer's career is what introduced Nora to planes and aviation.
- Nora has an older sister, Katie, who is studying elementary education at Clinton County Community College. She also has a younger brother, Mack, who is 11.
- Nora's father, Dave, is a social studies teacher at Sunflower Middle School.
- Nora currently flies a Cessna 172S, which is a four-person single engine plane.
- Bruno and Nora meet three times a week after school and also on the first Saturday of every month for training. Sometimes Nora will go to extra training sessions if it's nice weather outside and she's not busy.
- Nora works part-time at Teddy's Frozen Yogurt in Clinton to help pay for her flying lessons. Her parents pay for half and Nora pays for the other half.

### **Interview with Nora's mother Jennifer Harris**

- "I'm a flight attendant, so Nora would see me get ready for work and she knew I worked on airplanes when she was little. I remember that she told me she wanted to be a flight attendant like me, but I told her she should become a pilot instead."
- "I remember the day we took her to have her first beginner flight. I wasn't allowed to be on the plane with her, but I saw the pure excitement in her eyes when she came back down to the ground and got off the plane. I knew it was her destiny."
- "I'm so proud of her. I think it's so amazing that she's pursuing her dream. Whenever the children are more impressive than the parents, you feel like you've done something right in your life."
- "She started driving last year, and to be completely honest I was more nervous for that than I was with her learning how to fly! The road is more dangerous than the sky in my opinion."

### **Interview with Nora's instructor Bruno Valdez**

- "Nora has been one of my star pupils over the years. She came to me with a ferocity and eagerness to learn. I think she'll be an excellent pilot one day."
- "Her best trait as a pilot is her ability to prioritize the many activities that happen during a flight. She stays focused, her attention never wavers. That's a very important skill to have as a pilot."
- "Sometimes I have to be hard on her. But it's going to make her a better pilot. I want her to be the very best she can be, and she knows that. Flying an airplane is serious business. You're liable for every person on the plane you're flying. That's why training is so important."
- "A lot of the younger students, and even some of the older students, look up to her. She's a great leader in the program and everyone who knows her knows that she will succeed."

