

Editorial Cartoon



NOTE OF CLARITY

In previous years, the “Editorial Cartoon” contest has been an on-site category. A few years ago, it became a Visual category, allowing contestants more time and more access to illustration software. For these reasons, students may use illustration software to complete their editorial cartoon.

ANOTHER NOTE OF CLARITY

This contest is separate from the “Editorial Cartooning” contest in terms of its mission. Here is some guidance:

- “Editorial Cartooning” entries should provide a clear **point of view** on the subject, much like an editorial or other opinion writing would do with words. For instance, an “editorial cartooning” entry might visually illustrate the artist’s opinion that a school policy is unfair.
- “Digital Illustration” entries should help to **describe** an issue being covered in the news, sports or lifestyle sections of a publication. An opinion is not expected here. For instance, a “digital illustration” entry might visually describe the vital facts or themes of a feature story.

THE ASSIGNMENT

The editor of your publication would like you to illustrate your opinion about a news story that is being published in the publication. She hopes that your editorial cartoon will be so persuasive that it will steer the editorial board in their writing of the next issue’s editorial.

Here is the start of a news story that your cartoon should react to:

Clinton County City Council Proposes Budget Cuts to Sunflower Park

By Cora Nixon

The fate of Sunflower Park, a beloved spot in Clinton, hangs in the balance as a contentious bill proposing funding cuts to the park makes its way through the local city council.

This green space, which has been a source of community pride for generations, is at the center of a heated debate that has local residents torn between the desire for fiscal responsibility and the preservation of a

DESCRIPTION

You are a member of Sunflower High School’s publication staff. Your editor has asked you to create a photo illustration.

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 a VISUAL category for the KSPA Regional Contest.

Students must not request help or advice from any person other than the KSPA staff at staff@ksponline.org.

All work must be solely that of the contestant.

cherished recreational space.

Proponents of the bill led by city council member, John Thompson, said that redirecting funds from Sunflower Park is a responsible and necessary step to address pressing infrastructure needs.

These citizens note that Sunflower Park is the only local park that has a budget exceeding \$50,000 per year in maintenance. They also argue that Sunflower Park is not used often enough. In a 2022 study of Clinton parks, Sunflower Park was the third least used park among the 15 studied.

"While I value our park, we cannot afford to sacrifice funding for education, healthcare, and public safety. We need to strike a balance that benefits our community as a whole," Thompson said.

Conversely, local activists and supporters of Sunflower Park are organizing to voice their concerns about the potential loss of a beloved community gathering place.

These Clinton residents have argued at city council meetings that the park is vital because it serves an area of the city that is dominated by low-income housing. They also believe that financial data about the park has been manipulated to make it easier to close a park that serves Clinton residents who are in need.

"Sunflower Park is more than just swings and picnic tables," said. Jane Patterson, Clinton resident and mother of three. "It's a place where we come together as a community, where our children play, and where we celebrate our town's history. It should not be sacrificed to balance the budget."

The park features playground equipment, swings, a splash park and a duck pond. Each May the park hosts a 10k run/walk that benefits a Clinton charity for cancer research. The park was established in 1968 and dedicated by former mayor Darwin Hindman.

SUBMISSION

This category will use Better Newspaper Contests (BNC), for submission.

- [Click here to submit your files](#)
 - [And click here for detailed submission instructions](#)

SPECIFICATIONS

The image must be uploaded to the KSPA online submission system according to these specifications:

- A cartoon file can be saved as a jpg or a pdf.
- When you submit your cartoon, you will provide your name and school name on the submission form.
- The cartoon can be hand-drawn (for instance, using pen and paper), can be digitally produced (for instance, using Adobe

Illustrator) or can be a mixture of both.

- The image should not include any photographs.
- The entire image should be created by the artist and should not rely on any copyrighted images.
- The cartoon may be black and white or color.
- If you plan to submit a hand-drawn cartoon, please see the submission tips below.

Failure to follow these requirements may result in disqualification.

HAND-DRAWN CARTOONS

Here are some tips that will allow your hand-drawn cartoon to look as excellent as possible through our judging platform

- Put your cartoon in good light. “Good light” means indirect light (not in a big stream of direct sunshine) and natural light (not a lamp or other electrical lighting).
- Prop up your cartoon so that you aren’t blocking any light on the cartoon. If you don’t tilt it in this way, you will cast a shadow on your cartoon when it is photographed. See the photo below to see how to arrange this:



- **Please upload** your cartoon.
 - The image of your cartoon, when uploaded, will need to be a jpg. Many smartphones use image files (such as HDR files or HEIC files). Our submission system will not allow these files. To convert your image to a jpg, you can often simply email it to yourself and your phone will likely convert the file to jpg in the process. The emailed file is the one that you should submit.

- Log in to Better BNC submission platform to submit your cartoon. Your school's login information has been sent to your adviser. If you need directions on using the Better BNC submission system, [use this guide here.](#)