

Contest H :: Editorial Writing

2016 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. If you do, your entry will be disqualified.
4. You are to write an editorial running in the next edition of the Sunflower News, your newspaper. The writer should determine the newspaper's official opinion on the controversy and present an effective argument. The editorial should be approximately 200 words in length.
 - a. Please use the information provided below. The writer should determine which information is relevant and important to the editorial. 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 an editorial using 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 must 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.

Sunflower alumni participate in statewide protests

By George Hendricks, Sunflower News staff writer

Sunflower alumni, now attending colleges and universities, witnessed and participated in the recent protests against statewide public school budget cuts on Feb. 4 at public universities throughout Kansas, despite the limited action taken by Sunflower High School students.

"I found out about [the protesting] because my friends in college told me about it," Sunflower High School senior Audrey Chan said. "Otherwise, I would've known nothing about it because I haven't seen anything going on in Clinton."

In public universities such as the University of Kansas in Lawrence, however, both students and professors took an active role in the protests, according to 2014 Sunflower High School graduate and current KU freshman Seung-Yeon Choi, who claims that everyone on campus was extremely active in the protests.

"Students, even the ones that didn't directly participate, seemed to be generally supportive of the protest," Choi said. "Students made up the biggest part of the protest group. They want to prevent future fee hikes and the privatization of the Kansas Regents system. Some professors canceled classes so that their students could protest, but even the ones that did not cancel classes seemed generally supportive of the students taking initiative."

According to Choi, many protesters gathered in front of Strong Hall with their picket signs, chanting "Whose University? Our University!"

"It was pretty amazing to witness," Choi said. "Around noon, they [the protesters] all drove off to nearby cities like Topeka and Overland Park to march and show their support for public education."

The protests are happening throughout the state, according to 2015 Sunflower graduate Amin Ronaghi, who is a current freshman at the Kansas State University and attended a picket rally at his school.

"We held peaceful rallies at the entrances, blocking all traffic going in and out campus," Ronaghi said. "We held a strike where the campus got completely shut down. None of the dining halls or stores were open and there were no classes [that day]."

However, when compared to the protests seen a few months ago regarding the 32 percent tuition increase, Ronaghi seemed to think that this protest was considerably tamer.

"This protest was much, much more organized than the one a couple of months ago," Ronaghi said. "This protest was completely peaceful and we had no intentions with causing trouble or harm to people or property."

Although the protests were not as violent as last time, Choi thought the protest on Feb. 4 was more widespread.

"Last semester's protest was more concentrated on campus, whereas students went to different cities to protest this semester because Feb. 4 was the day many students were gathering in the big cities to fight for public education," Choi said.