

## Contest F: News Writing



## STEP #1

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

**School Name:**

### Regional Grouping:

**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.

First Name											
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[illegible]

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

First name	Last Name

staple me here  
please!

# Contest F :: News Writing

2020 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 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 may be disqualified.
4. You are to write a news story of approximately 300 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 news story 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 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.

### **Facts from your research**

- According to the U.S. Dept. of Justice, sexual assault is any nonconsensual sexual act prescribed by Federal, tribal, or State law, including when the victims lacks capacity to consent.
- From the school policy statement: "Any form of sexual misconduct, including but not limited to sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, dating or domestic violence, and sexual harassment can lead to punishment at Sunflower High."
- This is the only sentence in the school's policy statement.
- Last year, three female students reported that principal John Roberts assaulted them. Despite the allegations, he is still the principal at Sunflower High.
- A student at your school spearheaded a three-hour walkout on Jan. 10, 2020 during the first half of the school day, calling for the resignation of Roberts and demanding "students' voices be heard" and holding signs with #MeToo marked on them in big letters. The students walked across the football field and in front of Principal Roberts's office.
- A survey you conducted (500 students participated) shows 52 percent of SHS students admit that they have been sexual assaulted. 30 percent reported that the assault took place on school grounds.
- The survey also shows that out of the 500 students who participated, 102 identified that no follow-up measures were taken by the school after the assault.
- According to the National LGBTQ+ Task Force, 64 percent of trans people will experience sexual assault in their lifetimes.
- According to statistics from the National Sexual Violence Center, nearly one in ten women has been raped by an intimate partner in her lifetime. Approximately one in 45 men has been made to forced into a sex act.
- A study from the American Association of University Women found that nearly half of all students between grades seven and 12 reported experiencing some type of sexual harassment.
- Despite your efforts to get ahold of Roberts, he has repeatedly declined to comment. In one email, he said, "Because this is a potential legal matter, I cannot comment at this time. I maintain my innocence because it is the truth. All of these rumors and false statements will be proved as such."

### **Interview with anonymous SHS student**

- "I walked into Mr. Roberts's office to talk about a scheduling issue. He started chatting with me. We talked about the weather, my classes, how my year is going. I enjoyed it. Then, instead of helping me with my schedule, he stepped out of his chair. I thought that was weird. He brushed his hand against me before I left. I asked him what he was trying to do. He said, 'I was trying to grab you.'"
- "I immediately ran away and reported it to my counselor. I told my parents. I told the superintendent. Everyone questioned me, saying that the principal would never do that. I don't think they believed me and I haven't heard anything from them. It's been a year."
- "Then, he started calling me out of class for meetings. It was weird. He tried to kiss me."
- "Yes, it was sexual misconduct. Yes, it was the opposite of consent. That's a given. But you know what else it was? It was criminal neglect from school and its school board. My story doesn't matter to them. I don't matter as a student."
- "The experience doesn't define who I am. I just hope the same won't ever happen to another student."

### **Interview with Brad Shaw, Sunflower School District superintendent**

- "Sunflower High does not stand for sexual assault and we are sorry to hear about these allegations. I can with utmost certainty say that we have tried -- and continue to try -- our best to investigate all matters pertaining to the issue. We are not perfect, but we are trying our best."

### **Interview with Sunflower High school nurse Amy Anderson**

- "If anyone has any issues with sexual assault, we have great resources, like a wellness coordinator, who will listen to you. It's a traumatic experience, but people will listen."
- "I don't want to get involved in the politics of whether or not Principal Roberts should leave the school or not. All I want to say is that if there are problems, there are people in the building who'll listen."

**Rebecca Rodriguez, junior and organizer of the Walkout**

- “Three female students have reported that Principal Roberts has sexually harassed them. If you ignore that, then there’s something completely wrong with your train of thought.”
- “I organized this walkout to give students a voice. They are not victims, they are survivors. There is no reason for the school to be ignoring this, yet they are. In essence, they are ignoring what they stand for — the students.”
- “If we don’t address what’s wrong in our school, then who will?”

**Interview with Noah Edwards, junior**

- “Dude, I really don’t care one way or the other about Principal Roberts. He resigns, he resigns. He doesn’t, he doesn’t.”
- “I really haven’t had any issues with him.”
- “I try to avoid politics and focus on my school work. I’m trying to avoid this as much as I can.”

**Interview with senior Ryan Wilson**

- “At the end of the day, we don’t know the full story of the victims and I don’t think we ever will.”
- “I don’t know whether they were asking for it or not.”
- “People need to know the full story before they judge.”

**Interview with Mark Williams, sophomore who attended the walkout**

- “I attended the walkout to support my fellow students. I obviously don’t really have a stake in this one way or another, but I also am very disappointed with our administration and want to stand up for justice, if in any way I can.”
- “It’s not okay. Sexual assault is not okay and if indeed this is true, then Principal Roberts should definitely not be employed.”
- “I was so proud to see the unity of our school in this. We united for a cause together. Whatever it was, I was proud of it.”

**History teacher Peter Martinez**

- “It’s not just our school. So many important people in our lives have been accused of sexual assault and it’s not okay.”
- “Just look at Matt Lauer, Al Franken, Harvey Weinstein and R. Kelly.”
- “We are going through a historic time in our history in which people are abusing the fundamental values that we have set for our children to follow.”
- “I am proud of our kids for expressing their disappointment and walking out of school to do it. It shows that they care about their school and the potential problems within it. As one of their teachers, that makes me filled with pride.”