

# Contest E :: Feature 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 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 must 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.

**After hearing that a student at your school had been cast in upcoming blockbuster movie, you arrange an interview at her house. Here are your notes from the visit to the house and your interviews:**

**from interview with sophomore Jill Bongert, a junior at Sunflower High**

- “So, it’s bananas -- totally bananas -- how this all happened. I’m not sure where to start. I guess I will start with the YouTube videos. Ever since I was 12 I have been posting silly YouTube videos about characters and impersonations that I do. I have Jim, the Lumberjack. And Mrs. Nixon, the chemistry teacher that I made up. And Ben, the boy who is convinced he is an astronaut. There is really no logic to any of the characters. They are just absurd.”
- “But the impersonations that I do, those are more obvious: Donald Trump and Bill Self. Heather Lawrence and Hillary Clinton. I like to try to mimic both guys and girls. It really tests me.”
- “Anyway, I have this YouTube channel with basically kids at Sunflower High following it. Until I do this one video -- totally ridiculous -- that I did. It is a video where I play Jennifer Lawrence hitting on Donald Trump at a party on New Year’s Eve. Like I said, ridiculous. The video goes viral. I go from 500-something subscribers in one day to 47,000 subscribers. In one day!”
- “There was some bad language in the video, so the news channels and stuff here in town didn’t want to report on it going viral. But there were some big websites that posted the video, like BuzzFeed. When I was in class, I couldn’t concentrate at all. I was just checking my phone and watching the views climb on YouTube.”
- “When videos like that go viral, the person who makes the video gets so many direct messages and emails and spam. It’s insane. So I stopped paying attention to email and Twitter and everything, for like a week. And then when I opened my social media to sort of clean it out, there was so much of it. I almost missed the jewel in all of junk. There was a message from Judd Apatow, the director!”
- “It’s a totally small part. But it will be so much fun. I will be playing a brainy high school girl who also is obsessed with boy bands. It’s an absurd role, just like everything that I invent for myself. So, it’s a perfect fit. I can’t tell you the name of the movie or anything like that because of a contract that I signed. But the movie -- judging from the portion of the script that I have read -- is going to be amazing.”
- “The casting director said that I needed to go to Los Angeles to have a screen test. They said, ‘Just because you are comfortable in front of your YouTube camera doesn’t mean that you will be comfortable in front of the big Hollywood cameras.’ I went three weeks ago. When I got there, the casting director said basically, ‘Apatow told me that I have to hire you. But we flew you out here just to get you comfortable before the actual shooting dates.’”

**from interview with Nancy Bongert, Jill’s mother**

- “If I pulled out a home movie of Jill when she was six months old, you could just tell that she was going to have a huge dramatic, silly personality. I would put a bowl of cereal in front of her, and she would laugh and dump it on her head. So, I would refill it and put it down again and she would dump it on her head again. Over and over again. Let’s say that it was both hilarious and . . . well, challenging at times.”
- “The trip to Los Angeles was amazing. Jill was on the top of the world. Her personality is always big and loud, but she was even a bit intimidated by the scale of everything: the fancy offices, the movie posters on every wall, the celebrities. She was giddy. And I can’t tell you how many selfies she took while she was there. I kept telling her to act professional. But then I remembered how she got the job: posting videos of herself acting like Jim, the Lumberjack. I guess we just have to let her be her.”

**facts from your research**

- Jill has worked in some school theater productions at Sunflower High School. She played Audrey in the 2014 production of “Little Shop of Horrors” during her sophomore year.
- Judd Apatow has worked in comedy since the early 1990s. He has worked most notably as a producer, writer and director. Some of his most famous movies as a producer are . . .
  - Anchorman (2004) and Anchorman 2 (2013) starring Will Ferrell
  - Knocked Up (2007) starring Seth Rogan
  - Bridesmaids (2011) starring Kristen Wiig
  - Trainwreck (2015) starring Amy Schumer
- While Apatow was not available for interview, you were able to talk to a spokesperson from his production company: Apatow Productions. His name is Marquez Richardson. He said:
  - “Judd loves poking around YouTube to find out what small comedy project is going viral. That is how he and his staff found Jill.”
  - “The movie script and concept can’t be publicized yet. But we can confirm that James Franco will be in the starring role. The movie is scheduled for a 2017 summer release date. And yes, as you would expect it is a comedy.”

