

12B - BROADCAST WRITING (36 points possible)

Write a 90-second script (give or take 5 seconds) using the following five stories.

Consider how you will stack the show (placing most important to least important; pairing similar types of stories.)

Include a greeting and a sign out (Your Name for The Towne Crier).

Pay attention to:

- paraphrasing any quotes you use – quotes are necessary
- writing in broadcast style: short and conversational
- adhering to rules of broadcast writing in terms of placement of attribution, titles, sentence structure
- reading silently and timing yourself

STORIES

#1

While the Spirit baseball teams have enjoyed dugouts for the past 7 years, the softball teams will soon get their own shade from the field sun. In cooperation with the Lower Mountain Vocational Technology school, Spirit students will spend half of their school days on the back field instead of in class down the road.

"When Coach Henry approached me with the idea, we had to follow up on it. It's nice knowing that our students will get to show their incredible talents while improving our own facility here in Quaker City," Dr. Betty Bloom said.

One veteran softball team member showed her enthusiasm and appreciation for the improvement.

Senior Varsity Catcher Adrienne Bowers said, "Nobody knows how hot it gets playing in the late spring. We will finally have a place to go to cool off between innings."

Creation of the dugouts required numerous technical skills of the vo-tech students.

"It's going to be great to be able to actually put something that we learned in class to use in the real world where it will make a difference," masonry junior Nick Starks said. "The guys are pumped up to do a great job."

Construction on the project will commence as soon as the supplies arrive to the school.

#2

Introduced by two avid senior kayakers, John Adams and Rob Grainer, the duo approached Dr. Betty Bloom with the idea for a kayaking club at the end of last year.

Adams had genuine reasons to allow for the new organization. "Even though we have the Susquehanna, there a lot of smaller creeks that offer up some great whitewater around the area.

Since we had a very dry summer and spring, the dam controllers that control the water won't raise the levels easily.

Still, most will if a group of 10 kayakers or more wants to float. Having a club network will help to make that happen," Adams said.

School Info

Name: Spirit High School

Location: Quaker City, PA

Enrollment: 1,800 (9-12)

Principal: Dr. Betty Bloom

Colors: Blue and Silver

Mascot: Groundhogs

Morning Show: The Towne Crier

"Sometimes it's just hard to kayak because it takes a pick-up, sometimes with a trailer. We don't own one at home, so I'm hoping that this will allow me to hit the rivers more often," Grainer said.

#3

Six area high schools will gather not to compete, but to unite in a celebratory night of performances during the 27th annual Central Keystone Show Choir Festival on Nov. 12.

The evening will shine the spotlight on show choirs from six area high schools: Downeytown, Maplewood, Spirit, Maysfield, Lake Valley, and Jefferson Heights.

The schools rotate hosting the annual event with Maysfield's Showstoppers Show Choir welcoming guests this season in its school auditorium.

Showstoppers' 38 performers will entertain with a medley from two popular Broadway musicals: "Newsies" and "Hamilton."

The Downeytown Junior/Senior High School Show Choir is a new addition to the lineup this year with 20 students performing songs from the popular musicals "Little Shop of Horrors" and "Hairspray."

"We have been trying to join the Central Keystone Festival for a couple of years now, but the timing was never good for us," said Beth Minda, choir director at Downeytown. "This year, we decided to try and make an actual separate group (choir) – we were never a formal group before."

"There is a great camaraderie among our area high schools, and each year we are growing our participation," Kathy Grabigel, Lake Valley's choir director, said. "Last year, we had an audience of more than 500, and it was a packed house."

A veteran to the event, John Dalton, choir director at Jefferson Heights, said, "I was singing 20 years ago in this same festival, so it is nice to be on the other side of things now and helping to keep this alive with a show choir of my own. It is fun to see how the tradition continues," Dalton said.

Spirit High's Full Spirit Show Choir has 37 students, and their theme is "Any Way the Wind Blows" which features the works of Queen.

#4

Operation Gratitude annually sends 250,000+ care packages filled with snacks, entertainment, hygiene products, handmade items, plus personal letters of appreciation to new recruits, veterans, first responders, individually-named U.S. service members deployed overseas, wounded heroes, and their caregivers. The Spirit High Key Club joined in and created 28 packages to send out.

"Our mission was to lift the spirits and meet the evolving needs of our first responder, active duty, and veteran communities," Key Club President Mary Ann Hrivnak said. "We also sought to provide volunteer opportunities for our student body to express their appreciation for these heroes."

Since its inception in 2003, Operation Gratitude volunteers have shipped more than 1,500,000 care packages.

Each package contains donated products valued at \$75-100, and costs about \$15 to assemble and ship.

#5

If you happen to cross a groundhog wandering the aisles of the grocery store or trying to make a deposit at the bank, you may want to alert the authorities.

Quaker City Police are on the hunt for the thief who stole Spirit High School's large, brown woodchuck mascot costume last year and is currently parading it around town.

Before going missing, "George" was last seen at a Halloween party in October of 2015. Police thought they may never see the groundhog again, until the @wheresgeorge Twitter account popped up last month with pictures of the mascot travelling the city, enjoying bus rides, and wandering around Reynoldsville Mall.

"We thought maybe it was gone for good, but then someone started the Twitter account," Sheriff Mark Evans told the Quaker City Times. He added, "We have a number of students who are following the account, and they may have some information on who has the mascot."

Despite a plea for help from students, police have had little success locating the costume. According to the Times, police believe several people may be rotating possession of the mascot to avoid a bust.