

5N - NEWSPAPER NEWS WRITING (28 points possible)

Using the following facts and quotes, write a 250-300 word news story for your newspaper, *The Liberty Bell*.

The writer should determine which information is relevant and important to the story. The writer should also determine which quotes to use and whether to use quotes in their entirety.

Write your name on your entry.

Use neat handwriting so that judges can read it.

Background

Due to PA state budget shortfalls, all electives in English and history have been eliminated from the Spirit High curriculum for the year.

The district laid off two high school teachers just prior to the school year start.

Students who compete in sports now must pay a \$25 participation fee, and all extra-curricular activities must totally self-fund through various fundraisers.

Joleen Byers, the new English department chair hopes to continue the school newspaper as part of English curriculum, even though its entire budget was cut.

For the first time in school history, the band will not travel to away games, all in an attempt to curb costs for the year.

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

Newspaper: The Liberty Bell

For all field trips, bus transportation costs must now be incurred by the students and/or the club or group that request the trip.

At one point, Superintendent Nicolas Bodard requested that local state legislators attend the next school board meeting to witness the impact of no state budget on the district.

Student Council planned a community tailgate party at the Homecoming Game to raise money for school assemblies for the year..

Charlie James, Assistant High School Principal:

"This has been a tough process to get our bills paid and to provide quality education for our students. We are joining forces with the community to help fill the gaps. Our kids deserve the best opportunities, and sometimes those do not take much money. We can do this."

Molly Simpson, Senior Class President:

"I am pretty bummed that this happened during our senior year, but we are a great class, and we will make the best of this situation. The best part is that we have ideas on how to save money."

Mark Brown, Athletic Director:

"Sports is key to our community spirit, and I know that the folks in this community will not let the shortfalls in the state budget allocations hinder what we do in this district. They will rise to meet the challenge. Already, we have received more than \$3,000 to pay for transportation of athletes to away games. A local manufacturer even gave our band a flatbed trailer to transport band instruments to all away games and competitions. They are even providing a driver and equipment to haul it."

Julian Markewitz, senior:

"We are in hard times, and I will really miss my wrestling coach who was laid off from his math job, but he is still volunteering to coach us. I was hoping to have him for calculus this year."

Danielle Gregory, Percussion Section Leader:

"It really ticked me off when everyone thought that it was the band's idea to not attend the away games."

Dr. Betty Bloom, principal:

"Our goal during this budget crisis is to provide the best possible education with the funds we have available. We are working closely with parent groups and community members to help make this happen. Our students deserve the best. We could whine about the problems, but we have chosen to take the high road and be positive. I have met with student leaders, and they are doing a great job to keep up the positive spirits and work with us since so many of their electives have been cut and some of their teachers have been furloughed. This has been extremely difficult, but this gives us a chance to all pull together and show that we are a great school, no matter the problems we face."