

6N - NEWSPAPER FEATURE WRITING (28 points possible)

Using the following facts and quotes, write a 250-300 word feature 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

The Spirit Groundhog Marching Band lost by .15 to Reynoldsville High School at the State Finals last October.

Director George Graham and his staff spent many meetings throughout the winter to find an appropriate theme for this year's show.

The Booster Organization introduced three new General Fundraisers, including a Mattress Sale.

In an effort to save money, District administration mandated that the regiment attend only one away football game.

Quotes

- **Dr. Betty Bloom, principal:** "I actually attended two practices: one during Band Camp in August and one the week of the State Finals. It absolutely amazes me how Mr. Graham can bring so much talent out of our kids. When they unveiled the flag at the end of the show, it brought tears to my eyes."
- **Justin Cramer, junior trumpeter:** "When we won two of the three categories in Finals, we thought we had it. Losing two years in a row so closely crushed us all. I've got only one more year so we should start practicing a few weeks earlier."
- **Zack Briars, senior football cornerback:** "Even though we had a winning season, we all missed having the band at our away games. Scoring is always better with the Gopher Fight Song blaring in the stands."
- **George Graham, band director:** "The kids were simply amazing. I haven't had a more dedicated, rock-star crew like this one for about 10 years. I also think that the guard really stepped it up this year; the higher difficulty definitely paid off. We are already looking into next year's show. I have a few ideas in mind."
- **Lisa Sands, booster president:** "Nobody was more proud of our kids than the boosters and parents. The show lifted everyone's patriotic hearts every time they played it."
- **Tony DeCecco, senior math teacher:** "This was my son Angelo's first year in the band. He now knows the value of perseverance and practice. Carrying that big bass drum around for six months has done him some good. I could do without the constant tap-tap-tapping though."
- **Courtney Hammill, senior colorguard captain:** "We had four different flags, a rifle, and a red, white, or blue cube to carry out for every performance. That was a ton. Still, pulling out the big American flag at the end always brought the fans to their feet."

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

The band beat Reynoldsville early in the competitive season at the Pine Lakes event.

The band's show was entitled From Sea to Shining Sea and featured a flag the covered half the field at the end.

Of eight of the band's planned events, it rained on six of them, sometimes torrentially.

At the State Final held in Roseburg, PA, the band won Best Music and Best General Effect. Still, they lost to Reynoldsville by .05, the smallest difference possible..