

# Headline Writing

Invitational Meet A • 2016



You are a copy editor for the Leaguetown **Press**, the student newspaper of Leaguetown High School.

Write the headline assigned for each of the given six stories. Use the following system: all upper and lower case letters, spaces, punctuation marks and symbols count as 1. Capitalize the first letter of the first word of each headline. You may use either upstyle (capitalizing the first letter of every word) or downstyle (capitalizing the first letter of the first word and the first letter of proper nouns only thereafter). Remember that main headlines belong on the top line and secondary headlines belong under the main headline. You have **45 minutes**.

Do not write your name or the name of your school on this sheet or your entry. **Put your number on your paper.**

## Story 1 — Write: 2-line headline counting 20-26

After four school buses broke down last week, the district struck a temporary agreement with the city to use the city buses for two months.

"All four buses have major issues and can't be fixed overnight," Principal Tess Gonzalez said. "But our students still need transportation daily."

The school district bus drivers will continue to drive the routes, using the city buses.

"The buses drive the same, but the city buses have air-conditioning," bus driver Gil Sands said. "It definitely will be nice, especially in the afternoon."

Sophomore River Brown said he wouldn't mind riding in the city buses for the rest of the year.

"They are really nice and much cooler," he said. "Maybe the district could put air conditioners in our buses while they are getting fixed."

## Story 2 — Write: 3-line headline with each line counting 10-17

The cosmetology class is having a \$5 special on manicures for the month of February. Students and staff can make appointments during lunch in Room 204.

The class offers appointments before and after school.

"The manicures take about 20 minutes each, so we can schedule about 10 a day," senior Rashawn Gregg said. "We just bought a bunch of new spring colors. People will have a lot of choices."

Normally, manicures cost \$10. Tipping is not allowed.

"Even the regularly-priced manicure is a great deal," science teacher Dolly Itzle said. "The girls do an amazing job. I am always happy with my results."

## Story 3 — Write: 1-line headline counting 24-32

Counselor Nicki Flowers is starting an after-school yoga club for interested students. The club is going to meet on Mondays and Thursdays starting Feb. 8.

"Several students have talked to me about stress and how to handle it," Flowers said. "Yoga is a great way to de-stress yourself. I am not a certified yoga teacher, but I have been doing yoga for more than 10 years."

Flowers said the club will explore the different types of yoga through both practice and study.

"I have several yoga CDs that will lead us through a yoga session," she said.

Junior Cassandra Sanders said she is looking forward to the first meeting.

"I did yoga a few times with my stepmom, and it was peaceful and relaxing," she said.

**Story 4 — Write: 1-line main headline counting 14-20 and a 2-line secondary headline with each line counting 22-28**

The school cafeteria just got a little smoother.

Well, smoothier.

Cafeteria manager Gail Hester added a smoothie bar to the cafeteria on Monday. Students can choose from 10 varieties of smoothies for under \$2.50 each.

"It's another healthy option for students," Hester said. "We had hoped to have the smoothie stand open at the beginning of the school year, but we were waiting on contracts so the costs would be low."

Junior Hobart Reynolds said he's bought a smoothie every day this week.

"It's a great value," he said. "I've tried three different kinds. So far my favorite is the strawberry kale smoothie."

Hester said all of the fruits and vegetables are either organic or locally grown.

"That was very important to us," she said. "It took us a bit longer to get this type of produce, but it's definitely worth it."

**Story 5 — Write: 1-line main headline counting 12-18 and a 2-line secondary headline with each line counting 15-21**

Instead of buying chocolates or flowers this Valentine's Day, the Student Council is hoping to convince students to make a heart donation instead.

From Feb. 8-12, the Student Council will be accepting donations for the American Heart Association. Students who donate at least \$5 will get a heart to post in the hall.

"Students can write their boyfriend or girlfriend's name on the heart, and we will write the amount donated," Student Council president Chastidy Evans said. "It's more romantic to give a donation that can help find a cure for heart disease than to give flowers that will die in a day or two."

The group hopes to raise \$2,000 for the AHA.

"Last year when math teacher Gerardo Cortes died from a heart attack, the family asked for donations to the AHA instead of flowers," Evans said. "That got us thinking. We thought it would make for a great fundraiser."

**Story 6 — Write: 1-line headline counting 26-32**

The teachers will be without a teacher's lounge for the rest of the school year due to the fire this week. Apparently, the coffee maker was left on overnight and sparked a small fire in the kitchenette of the lounge.

"Luckily, the fire didn't spread further than the sink area," Principal Tess Gonzalez said. "We will have to close down the lounge so the district can repair the room."

Gonzalez said she is going to set up a few tables in the copy room for teachers who don't have a classroom or for teachers who lose their classroom during their planning period.

"Because of overcrowding issues, we use almost every classroom every period of the day," she said. "We don't have another room to open for teachers, but we are going to try to make the copy room as comfortable as possible. Unfortunately, it's just not that big."

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## INVITATIONAL A • 2016

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9. Please note that AP does not have a style dealing with headlines. Most newspapers create their own style; so using numbers or spelling them out is acceptable either way as long as the writer is consistent.

The following are additional basic headline rules for you to follow:

- avoid starting the headline with a verb
- always use single quotes
- avoid using the same word twice in a headline
- use active verbs, not passive verbs
- try to write in present or future tense
- avoid unfamiliar abbreviations
- do not end the headline with a period

## ★ STORY #1

District to use city buses	26
until repairs completed	23

## ★ STORY #2

Cosmetology class	17
hosts \$5 special	16
on manicures	12

## ★ STORY #3

Counselor launches yoga club	28
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## ★ STORY #4

<b>A smooth start</b>	14
Cafeteria opens drink bar	25
adding healthy lunch choice	27

## ★ STORY #5

<b>Romancing a cure</b>	16
Fundraiser to collect	21
for heart association	21

## ★ STORY #6

Staff lounge closed due to fire	31
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# Headline Writing

Invitational Meet B • 2016



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## Story 1 — Write: 2-line headline counting 20-26

Because of a computer error, students will have to revote for Student Council officers next Friday during third period. More than 50 percent of the votes were lost when the computer server crashed.

"We back up most everything on campus, but we didn't think to back up the votes because we only needed the count for a day or two," technology director Rita Ybarra said.

Student Council sponsor Quita Prater said she will release a schedule by Wednesday for teachers so they know when to bring their class to the computer lab.

"We've learned our lesson," Prater said. "Ms. Ybarra is going to back up the votes after each class finishes."

Sophomore Heather Hester said she is frustrated by the revote.

"I am running for treasurer, and I already took down all of my posters because I thought the election was over," she said. "Now I am afraid people won't vote for me."

## Story 2 — Write: 3-line headline with each line counting 10-17

After surveying students about classes for next year, Principal Ted Enos said the course sheets will have more choices in March, including a computer graphics class and an auto tech class.

"Our electives were not meeting the needs of our students," Enos said. "We will not necessarily offer every class on the choice sheet, but if a new class has enough enrollment, we will do our best to find a teacher for it."

Junior Todd Lewis said he suggested an auto tech course on the survey.

"When my cousin was in high school he took an auto tech course, and now he's working as a part-time mechanic to pay for his college," Lewis said. "He makes a lot more money than working in the college library."

## Story 3 — Write: 2-line headline with each line counting 16-23

Rather than holding one week-long fundraiser like selling candy or cookie dough, the freshman class opted to open a school store for the rest of the year. The store will sell school supplies like pens, paper, notebooks, etc., and it will open next week.

"It was Ms. (Beverly) Cast's idea," freshman class president Shilo Tavertine said. "She said students always come to her class unprepared, so we think the store will be a great fundraiser and a great service to the students."

The store will be in the old custodian closet near the front office and will be open from 7:30 to 8 a.m. and during both lunches.

"We thought we might have issues getting people to work the store, but we have the entire month covered, and we didn't have to beg," Tavertine said.

**Story 4 — Write: 1-line main headline counting 13-19 and a 2-line secondary headline with each line counting 18-24**

When junior Heidi Shroot attended the Smitherton Barbecue Cook-off last weekend, she didn't think it would be a dangerous adventure for her and her boyfriend. But she was wrong.

Shroot was knocked out cold by a flying brisket.

When she awoke, she was surrounded by medical technicians who were trying to assess the damage.

"I didn't see it coming at all," she said. "One minute I was walking to another booth, and the next I was down on the ground. I don't remember being hit at all."

Apparently, two men who were sharing a smoker started arguing over which brisket was theirs. One of the men got so frustrated that he flung the brisket out of the smoker into the crowd of people.

"I saw something coming at us, and I tried to pull Heidi down," her boyfriend senior Zach Lipon said. "But I reacted too late. The brisket hit Heidi smack in the face."

Shroot suffered a minor concussion and decided not to press charges against the meat flinger.

"The guy who threw the meat was so apologetic," she said. "He offered to buy me a new shirt, and Zach and I can eat at his restaurant for free all year."

**Story 5 — Write: 2-line headline with each line counting 18-24**

Vandals defaced the outside of the school gym this past weekend, spray painting inappropriate words and comments about head basketball coach Willie Nielson. School officials hope to have the brick walls cleaned by Tuesday afternoon.

"The police think they know who did the graffiti," Principal Ted Enos said. "The outside security cameras got good shots of all of the vandals."

This is the second time the school has been vandalized this year. After the first time when windows were broken and trash was dumped all over the front of the school, the school board voted to add security cameras to the outside of the building.

"The district definitely made a good investment with the cameras," Enos said.

Sophomore Rusty Herrod said he didn't even know the school had outside security cameras.

**Story 6 — Write: 1-line main headline counting 10-18 and a 1-line secondary headline with counting 25-32**

Two years ago Kierstan Russell and Madeline Witzel made history at the high school when they became the first twins to teach here. Now, they are making history again.

Both Russell and Witzel are pregnant, and both are having twins.

"We are due within two weeks of each other, so we decided to get our sonograms on the same day," Russell, a math teacher, said. "I went in first with my husband and, when we came out, Madeline knew something was up. Our faces gave us away."

Russell announced she was having twins. Then Witzel went in for her sonogram.

"I couldn't stop laughing when the nurse told my husband and I we were having twins, too," Witzell, an English teacher said.

The sisters celebrated that night with a huge dinner party with their friends and family.

"We waited until everyone sat down for dinner before making our big announcement," Witzell said. "Then, Kierstan brought out a chalk board and wrote two plus two equals. My mom was the first to get it. She started screaming, 'four, four! Two sets of twins!'"

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## ★ STORY #1

StuCo revote on Friday	22
due to computer crash	21

## ★ STORY #2

School to add	13
more electives	14
to choice sheets	16

## ★ STORY #3

Freshmen to open	16
school supply store	19

## ★ STORY #4

<b>When cows fly</b>	13
Thrown brisket knocks	21
sophomore out cold	18

## ★ STORY #5

Vandals deface gym,	19
cameras yield suspects	22

## ★ STORY #6

<b>Double down</b>	11
Twin teachers make history again	32



# Headline Writing

District 1 Meet • 2016



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## Story 1 — Write: 2-line headline with each line counting 15-21

A long-awaited resurfacing project at the tennis courts will begin June 1. Crews will repair cracks, level and smooth surfaces and improve drainage.

The project was originally scheduled to start Dec. 1, but inclement weather, both rain and ice, delayed the work.

"We have played on substandard courts for more than a year now," tennis coach Cole Jefferson said. "The delay was not the district's fault, but this project should have been started last summer."

Junior Jeff Kaden said the condition of the courts has affected the team.

"It's tough to practice when the ball hits one of our big cracks and goes wild," he said. "We practiced on city courts most of the year."

## Story 2 — Write: 3-line headline with each line counting 10-18

The Chevron Company named senior Luke Copler its grand prize winner of the 2016 Tito Tractor Restoration Competition. Copler won \$10,000 and a trip to Louisville, Ky., for him and his family.

"I am stunned," Copler said. "I spent the majority of my senior year working on my grandpa's 1957 tractor. It hadn't worked since 1985. It was definitely a labor of love."

More than 3,000 high school students entered the competition this year.

"Luke's restoration was as close to perfect as I've seen," contest director Colby Street said. "He has a future in this field if he chooses to pursue it."

Copler and his parents will fly to Louisville in June to receive his plaque and check.

Copler said his grandfather sparked his interest in tractors.

"When I was little, I used to spend hours with him as he worked on his tractors," he said. "Grandpa always did his own repairs, so I learned almost everything from him."

## Story 3 — Write: 2-line headline with each line counting 21-28

Class of 1985 Leaguetown graduate Charles Shaw has challenged seniors to design and execute a senior project that focuses on school or community improvement. Shaw will reward the top three projects with a \$3,000 scholarship each.

"I wanted to give back to my alma mater, and this seems like the perfect plan," said Shaw, the owner and CEO of Shaw Engineering. "Not only can three students win, but the community and school district wins, too."

More than 100 seniors have signed up for the challenge. Senior Rashad Evans said he is designing a project to improve community parks.

"I don't want to give any of the details, but I am focused on the parks," he said. "Even if I don't win, this is a great thing to do. Mr. Shaw has seniors motivated to help. That's pretty awesome."

Principal Alan Cummings said Shaw will announce the winners at graduation.

"I wish we would have started this challenge in the fall, but I have been extremely impressed with the projects seniors are taking on," Cummings said. "They are thinking 'big.'"

**Story 4 — Write: 1-line main headline counting 12-19 and a 2-line secondary headline with each line counting 18-24**

Senior Richie Potter is never going to leave his car windows open during school again.

On Friday, when Richie jumped in his car to head home after school, he wasn't alone.

"As soon as I started to pull out of my parking space, I felt a tiny hand on my shoulder," Richie said. "I jumped and screamed — which was exactly the wrong thing to do."

The little hand, attached to a big raccoon, started scratching and slapping at Richie.

"I threw the car into park and jumped out," he said. "I was screaming the entire time."

Assistant Principal Sheryl Filler, who witnessed the scene, ran over to Richie and was able to coax the raccoon out of the car into a large box.

"We wanted to have animal control check out the raccoon and place him where he needs to be," she said.

After the raccoon was trapped, Richie and Filler went to the emergency room where Richie received his first round of rabies shots.

"The raccoon looked fine, but the doctors and my parents were taking all precautions," he said. "I could have done without the shots, but I understand their point. One thing I am sure of — I will always close my car windows."

**Story 5 — Write: 1-line main headline counting 22-28 and a 1-line secondary headline counting 26-32**

One Thing. Two Thing. Red Fish. Blue Fish.

Dr. Seuss is back. Or at least, he's back in the hallways.

When students returned from the one-week spring break, they discovered newly-painted lockers. The traditional blue lockers were painted with scenes from Dr. Seuss books. It was an Art Club surprise.

"The art students had the idea after seeing a video about students who painted murals throughout the school," art teacher Maribel Gomez said. "We got the go-ahead from the administrators and worked long crazy hours during spring break to surprise everyone."

Students were definitely surprised.

"Part of Thing One is on my locker," senior Sydney Repo said. "I love it. The halls look so much different — better different."

Junior Cassie Yedder said the paintings have changed the mood in the hallways.

"Before, everyone would grumble in the hallways about classes and work and stuff like that," she said. "How can anyone be upset now when they have the Cat in the Hat looking right at them? Everyone seems so much happier."

**Story 6 — Write: 1-line headline counting 26-32**

The Student Council is sponsoring a Walk-A-Thon Against Bullying next Friday at Bonner Park. The money raised will be donated to 1-800-No Bully(ing), the national hotline for youths threatened by bullying.

Registration for the 10K walk is \$5 for those 18 and younger and \$10 for 19 and older.

"We want to continue to bring awareness to this issue," Student Council president Chloe Stamps said. "We also want to be a part of the solution by helping the hotline."

Stamps said they kept the registration cost low so more students could participate.

"Participants can always add a donation to their registration fee if they want," Stamps said. "We are not going to turn any money away."

The hotline needs almost \$1 million a year to provide services to youth across the nation.

"Donations keep us alive," hotline director Trenton Stiles said. "Last year, we received more than 100,000 phone calls from youth who needed help. I like to think a lot of young people are alive today because we were there to answer their call. We were there to answer the call because of people like Chloe and the other council members."

**District 1 Meet • 2016**  
**Headline Writing Entry Sheet**

All letters (upper and lower case), numbers, punctuation marks, symbols and spaces count as one (1). Place one letter or other unit in the appropriate spaces below. Remember to leave spaces between words. Note that the number of lines you are given on this sheet corresponds to the number of lines required for each headline. **Write your number on the upper right-hand corner of this sheet.**

■ Headline Number 1

1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10   11   12   13   14   15   16   17   18   19   20   21   22   23   24   25   26   27   28   29   30   31   32

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■ Headline Number 2

1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10   11   12   13   14   15   16   17   18   19   20   21   22   23   24   25   26   27   28   29   30   31   32

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■ Headline Number 3

1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10   11   12   13   14   15   16   17   18   19   20   21   22   23   24   25   26   27   28   29   30   31   32

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■ Headline Number 4

1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10   11   12   13   14   15   16   17   18   19   20   21   22   23   24   25   26   27   28   29   30   31   32

\_\_\_\_\_ *main headline*

\_\_\_\_\_ *secondary headline*

■ Headline Number 5

1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10   11   12   13   14   15   16   17   18   19   20   21   22   23   24   25   26   27   28   29   30   31   32

\_\_\_\_\_ *main headline*

\_\_\_\_\_ *secondary headline*

■ Headline Number 6

1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10   11   12   13   14   15   16   17   18   19   20   21   22   23   24   25   26   27   28   29   30   31   32

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## ★ STORY #1

Tennis court repairs	20
to begin June 1	15

## ★ STORY #2

Senior restores	15
1957 tractor,	13
wins \$10,000	12

## ★ STORY #3

Seniors vie for scholarships	28
with service projects	21

## ★ STORY #4

<b>Backseat bandit</b>	15
Raccoon surprises senior	24
who left windows open	21

## ★ STORY #5

<b>Just what the Dr. ordered</b>	25
Locker art delights students	28

## ★ STORY #6

StuCo to host anti-bullying walk	32
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## Story 1 — Write: 2-line headline with each line counting 20-26

The school will close two hours early Friday so the district can replace windows broken during the hail storm last week. All buses will depart at 2:15 p.m.

"Replacing the windows is a loud process," Principal Bill Yorbin said. "It was going to be so disruptive that we decided to end the school day early."

Yorbin said he expects the crew will finish within a few hours.

"The district didn't want to replace the windows on the weekend because it would have had to pay overtime," Yorbin said.

Also, rain is in the forecast this weekend, he said.

"Some of the windows have huge cracks," Yorbin said. "If we don't get them fixed before this storm system moves in, then we will be replacing more than windows."

The hail storm last month damaged 28 windows in the school.

## Story 2 — Write: 3-line headline with each line counting 9-17

The girls powderpuff flag football championship game has been moved from the practice football field to the stadium because of pre-ticket sales. The game will be at 2 p.m. Saturday.

"We have sold more than 200 tickets already," Principal Bill Yorbin said. "The bleachers on the practice field will only hold about 120 people."

The seniors, named the Deadly Divas, will play the undefeated Junior Mints.

"It's going to be an intense game," Diva quarterback Shelly Pollard said. "The Mints are fast, but we have better receivers."

Junior Ethan Siles said he's "pumped" that the principal moved the game.

"This is going to be a huge game," Siles said. "The girls have been trash-talking all week, and everyone wants to go. I heard Coach [Fred] Ramsey is even hiring real referees."

Tickets are \$3 pre-game and \$5 at the gate.

## Story 3 — Write: 1-line headline counting 26-32

To control the traffic jams after school, the school will open all four exits in the student parking lot for the rest of the school year.

"We thought if we only opened one exit at the end of the day, we could have a more uniform dismissal," Principal Bill Yorbin said. "And it is uniform, but it's too slow."

To direct traffic, Yorbin said the administrators will be in the parking lot after school each day.

"We are going to direct particular sections to particular exits," he said. "We want students to use the closest exits even if that's not their preferred exit."

Senior Tommy Long said opening the exits is overdue.

"Last week it took me 30 minutes just to leave the parking lot," he said. "That's insane. I never understood why we only opened up one exit."

**Story 4 — Write: 1-line main headline counting 12-19 and a 2-line secondary headline with each line counting 18-24**

To avoid the risk of being too risque, Mr. Leaguetown pageant officials have altered the swimsuit portion of next week's competition. All males may now wear grass hula skirts with their bathing suits.

"It's definitely better this way," senior Pete River said. "I felt naked during rehearsals, standing on stage in my speedo. Plus, the hula skirt adds a little extra flair."

Senior Robbie Benton said his mother is working on his hula skirt.

"When the officials told us last night that we could wear a skirt, I was so psyched," he said. "But I don't want a regular, plain hula skirt. My mom is adding flowers and beads. It's going to blow the judges away."

The male participants will compete in three categories — formal wear, talent and bathing suit.

"My cousin won last year, so I have some family pressure to bring home the crown," Benton said. "I plan to wear his lucky garter."

**Story 5 — Write: 1-line main headline counting 14-21 and a 1-line secondary headline counting 26-32**

Junior Kaitlyn Moss dreamed of seeing a humpback whale, but she never wanted to swim with one.

Somehow, Kaitlyn did both over spring break.

While she and her dad were kayaking at Moss Landing in California, a bay known for humpback whale viewing, a whale landed on the front of their boat, toppling Kaitlyn and her dad into the water.

"We were kayaking so we could get a better view of the whales," she said.

Neither Kaitlyn nor her father were hurt, but the pair had a difficult time climbing back into the kayak.

"The water was pretty rough after a second whale broke the surface, so we just hung onto the kayak and watched," she said. "It was the most beautiful sight I've ever seen."

With her waterproof camera, Kaitlyn took pictures of the second whale surfacing.

"I would have been devastated if I hadn't gotten any photos," she said. "I didn't get any photos of the first whale, but some tourists on another boat shot video. They sent it to my dad last week. It's wild. You can see my dad and me fly into the air as the huge whale slammed our kayak."

**Story 6 — Write: 1-line headline counting 26-32**

After participating in her church's handbell musical group, sophomore Trudy Easten decided to start a club, and in only one semester, it has grown to more than 20 participants. The club will have its first performance at 7 p.m. Friday in the school auditorium. The concert is free.

"I am still amazed at how big our group grew and how talented our group is," Easten said. "We are going to perform nine songs Friday night. A few girls from choir are going to sing during our last song."

Easten's church, Graceline Church, donated two sets of bells to the group.

"Without the donation, I don't think we could have the club," Easten said. "Handbells cost about \$1,000 per set. Our bells are not fancy, but they have great sound."

Junior Tamika Keys joined the group two months ago and will perform in two songs at the concert.

"I've never played an instrument, so I thought it would take a long time to learn," she said. "But it didn't. I love the sounds of the bells. It's so beautiful and soothing."



**District 2 Meet • 2016**  
**Headline Writing Entry Sheet**

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■ Headline Number 1

1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10   11   12   13   14   15   16   17   18   19   20   21   22   23   24   25   26   27   28   29   30   31   32

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■ Headline Number 2

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■ Headline Number 3

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■ Headline Number 4

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\_\_\_\_\_ *main headline*

\_\_\_\_\_ *secondary headline*

■ Headline Number 5

1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10   11   12   13   14   15   16   17   18   19   20   21   22   23   24   25   26   27   28   29   30   31   32

\_\_\_\_\_ *main headline*

\_\_\_\_\_ *secondary headline*

■ Headline Number 6

1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10   11   12   13   14   15   16   17   18   19   20   21   22   23   24   25   26   27   28   29   30   31   32

# **DO NOT DISTRIBUTE TO STUDENTS BEFORE OR DURING THE CONTEST!**

## **DISTRICT 2 • 2016**

### **HEADLINE WRITING CONTEST TIPS AND SAMPLES**

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- avoid unfamiliar abbreviations
- do not end the headline with a period

## ★ STORY #1

School to end early Friday	26
for window replacement	22

## ★ STORY #2

Powderpuff game	15
moved to stadium	16
due to big crowd	16

## ★ STORY #3

Four exits now open after school	32
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## ★ STORY #4

<b>Skirting the issue</b>	18
Pageant makes changes	21
to swimsuit competition	23

## ★ STORY #5

<b>Whale, hello there</b>	18
Humpback topples junior into bay	32

## ★ STORY #6

Handbell concert set for Friday	31
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## ★ STORY #1

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Four exits now open after school	32
----------------------------------	----

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Pageant makes changes	21
to swimsuit competition	23

## ★ STORY #5

<b>Whale, hello there</b>	18
Humpback topples junior into bay	32

## ★ STORY #6

Handbell concert set for Friday	31
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# Headline Writing

Regional • 2016



You are a copy editor for the Leaguetown Press, the student newspaper of Leaguetown High School. Write the headline assigned for each of the given six stories. Use the following system: all upper and lower case letters, spaces, punctuation marks and symbols count as 1. Capitalize the first letter of the first word of each headline. You may use either upstyle (capitalizing the first letter of every word) or downstyle (capitalizing the first letter of the first word and the first letter of proper nouns only thereafter). Remember that main headlines belong on the top line and secondary headlines belong under the main headline. You have **45 minutes**. Do not write your name or the name of your school on this sheet or entry. **Put your number NOT YOUR NAME on your paper.**

## Story 1 — Write: 2-line headline with each line counting 20-26

This month, four members of the marching band started a new club, Songs for Smiles, to raise money for instruments for younger students who can't afford to buy them. The club's first fundraising event will be at 7 p.m. Friday, April 29, in Joe's Generic Coffee Shop on Main Street.

Admission will be free, but the club will accept donations.

"We will play mostly a jazz set at Joe's," said club founder and junior Margaret Walters. "As we play, one of our club members will pass around a donation jar."

Walters said the club has five other gigs set for the summer. The goal is to raise \$1,000 to help five incoming freshmen purchase or rent instruments for the fall.

"We are a pretty rich school, and people forget that we have students here in need," Walters said. "If the band director hadn't found me financial help, I would have never been able to be in band. It's time for me to pay it forward."

## Story 2 — Write: 3-line headline with each line counting 10-17

Due to the theft of equipment over the weekend, biology teacher Pace Jackman postponed the April 28 Biology II field trip until mid-May. Assailants broke into the school shed and stole nets and specimen jars.

"It's kind of hard to believe that someone stole our biology supplies, but that's what happened," Jackman said. "There wasn't much resale value in that stuff, so I am a little perplexed about the theft."

Principal Lori Gonzalez said the school will replace the stolen items, but the field trip is on hold until the supplies arrive.

"It's kind of hard to collect specimens without nets and jars," she said. "We are looking at May 13 for the field trip."

Officer Stan Roller is investigating the theft and said the assailants also took fishing poles and wading gear that belonged to the Outdoor Club.

## Story 3 — Write: 1-line headline counting 26-32

The school will debut its new, bigger electronic marquee this Monday. Allen Electronics donated the marquee after the old one was damaged in January by lightning.

"We are so grateful to Allen Electronics," Principal Lori Gonzalez said. "I never realized how much our community relied on the marquee until it was gone."

The new marquee will be approximately 30 percent bigger and display four more lines of text for viewers.

"We will be able to get more information out to our community," Gonzales said. "Plus, the new one is painted in our school colors, purple and silver. It's quite beautiful for a marquee."

Logan Style, the owner of Allen Electronics, said he was happy to donate the marquee.

**Story 4 — Write: 1-line main headline counting 12-19 and a 2-line secondary headline with each line counting 18-24**

As the leading basketball scorer for the state in 2016, junior Darryl Butters was named Athlete of the Year for the school district. No surprise there. But it was a huge surprise for him when he was asked to train for free with former Dallas Mavericks guard Steve Nash at his basketball summer camp.

“When my mom told me about the phone call from Steve Nash, I thought she was just messing with me,” Butters said. “Then she started giving me all of the details, and I figured she must be telling the truth.”

Butters will attend Nash’s three-week camp in Dallas at Southern Methodist University in July.

“The camp costs like \$2,500 a week,” Butters said. “I am on full scholarship. I couldn’t believe it. My mom would never have been able to afford this. It’s a dream come true.”

The brochure for the camp describes it as “an elite training program where athletes will receive one-on-one instruction” from former professional players and college athletes.

“This is, by far, one of the best training programs in the nation,” varsity basketball coach Aaron Till said. “Players come from all over the United States, and it’s a huge application process. Athletes have to send videos, letters of recommendation and more. Darryl doesn’t have to do any of that.”

Butters said he is “a little nervous” about attending.

“Steve Nash is my hero,” Butters said. “I like to think I play a little like him. He was ranked as one of the top players in NBA league history in three-point shooting, free-throw shooting, total assists and assists per game.”

**Story 5 — Write: 1-line main headline counting 14-21 and a 1-line secondary headline counting 26-32**

After turning in his paperwork to retire at the end of the school year, math teacher Tyrone Jones did not expect to see the cheerleading squad in the hallway ready to celebrate his 42-year teaching career with two cheers and a dance to “Watch Me (Whip/Nae Nae)” by Silento.

And the cheerleaders certainly didn’t expect Jones, who is 75 years old, to join them.

But that’s what he did.

“My great nephew loves that song, and last Christmas he spent our entire visit teaching me the moves,” Jones said. “My ‘stanky leg’ probably wasn’t as good as the cheerleaders, but I held my own.”

By the time the song was over, the hallways were filled with students and teachers.

“For an older guy, Mr. Jones can move,” junior Derrick Roads said.

Principal Lori Gonzalez alerted the cheerleaders to Jones’s retirement and asked them to plan the celebration for him.

“Ms. Gonzalez knew Mr. Jones was turning in his paperwork today,” cheerleader Veronica Bailey said. “And we were ready. We had no idea Mr. Jones had ever even heard the song. Then he started dancing. It was wild.”

Gonzalez said the school will host a formal retirement party for Jones in late May.

“He knows he’s getting a retirement party, so I wanted to surprise him with something special today,” she said. “But he was the one who surprised us.”

**Story 6 — Write: 1-line headline counting 26-32**

After a request from the senior class officers, Principal Lori Gonzalez agreed to allow senior Fiona Harris to sit on stage during graduation and shake seniors’ hands after they receive their diploma.

Harris, a 21-year-old special education student with Down’s Syndrome, also will graduate this year.

“Every senior knows and loves Fiona,” senior class president Shelly Lockridge said. “And I think Fiona knows the name of every senior. She’s certainly hugged most of us.”

Lockridge said the senior class officers came up with the idea after watching Fiona don the mascot costume for a basketball game.

“I have never seen the crowd so pumped up during a girls’ basketball game,” Lockridge said. “The stands were packed, and most people were there just to support Fiona.”

Harris’ parents, Marge and Bill Harris, said they were speechless when Gonzalez asked their permission.

“Fiona loves that school and every student in it,” Bill Harris said. “We knew students liked her, but we never imagined they would give her such a huge honor. She was beyond thrilled when her mother and I told her the news.”



**Regional Meet • 2016**  
**Headline Writing Entry Sheet**

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■ Headline Number 2

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■ Headline Number 3

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■ Headline Number 4

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main headline

secondary headline

■ Headline Number 5

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

main headline

secondary headline

■ Headline Number 6

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

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**REGIONAL • 2016**

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## ★ STORY #1

Songs for Smiles to host	24
first fundraiser Friday	23

## ★ STORY #2

Theft delays	12
biology trip	12
until mid-May	13

## ★ STORY #3

Donated marquee to debut Monday	31
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## ★ STORY #4

<b>Nothing but Nash</b>	16
Senior wins opportunity	23
to train with NBA star	22

## ★ STORY #5

<b>One last dance</b>	14
Jones whips into retirement	27

## ★ STORY #6

Senior receives graduation honor	32
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# Headline Writing

State Meet • 2016



You are a copy editor for the Leaguetown Press, the student newspaper of Leaguetown High School. Write the headline assigned for each of the given six stories. Use the following system: all upper and lower case letters, spaces, punctuation marks and symbols count as 1. Capitalize the first letter of the first word of each headline. You may use either upstyle (capitalizing the first letter of every word) or downstyle (capitalizing the first letter of the first word and the first letter of proper nouns only thereafter). Remember that main headlines belong on the top line and secondary headlines belong under the main headline. You have **45 minutes**. Do not write your name or the name of your school on this sheet or entry. **Put your number NOT YOUR NAME on your paper.**

## Story 1 — Write: 1-line main headline counting 10-16 and a 2-line secondary headline with each line counting 18-24

Harvard. Princeton. Yale. And the list goes on. Five more.

Valedictorian Iziah Quintana was accepted to all eight Ivy League universities, and at Honor's Day next week, he will finally announce which school he has selected.

"I never intended to apply to all eight, but each had a different draw," Quintana said. "And I never thought I would be accepted to all of them. I was hoping I would hear positively from one or two."

Quintana said making the decision was extremely tough.

"All of them offered me a substantial amount of scholarship money, and I have spoken to alumni from all of the eight schools," he said. "My mom says I can't make a bad choice. I hope she's right."

Quintana said he hasn't even told his parents which university he's chosen.

"They know I am leaning toward two schools," he said. "They support my decision and think it will be fun to find out at the awards ceremony, too."

## Story 2 — Write: 3-line headline with each line counting 9-17

Four seniors advanced to the UIL State Academic Meet in journalism held at the University of Texas at Austin. It is the first time the school has had a student advance to state in journalism.

"We have a student competing in each of the four contests," journalism coach Bobbi Hawthorne said. "If they all place, it is quite possible they can win team, too."

Senior Randy Vonder won third at regionals in headlines and hopes to do even better at the state meet.

"I would love to bring home first or second," he said. "I've been practicing all week. My brain is pretty fried, but I think I have at least six more good headlines in it."

Hawthorne said she will stock up on gummy bears for the three-hour bus ride to Austin.

"The team loves gummy bears and swears the bears are their writing muses," Hawthorne said. "All of the students were excellent writers before we started taking gummy bears to meets, but I definitely don't want to mess with the team's mojo."

## Story 3 — Write: 2-line headline with each line counting 18-24

Given the green light by her doctors yesterday, senior Allie Diamond will be able to pitch at the UIL State Softball Tournament next week.

During the regional semifinal, the starting pitcher suffered a concussion when she was stealing second base. She was hit in the head by a wild throw.

"I didn't black out completely, but everything was really fuzzy for a few minutes," Diamond said.

Her doctor benched her for the regional game against West High School. The team won the game 4-0 without Diamond.

"I may not have pitched, but I certainly cheered louder than anyone at the game," Diamond said. "It hurt not to play, but I knew the team could win without me."

Varsity coach Jill Elkand said she is thrilled to have Diamond back for state.

"Not only is Allie an incredible pitcher, but she's batting a .402 right now," Elkand said.

**Story 4 — Write: 1-line main headline counting 15-21 and a 2-line secondary headline with each line counting 18-24**

Advanced Placement history teacher Daniel Rowles promised his students a field trip if every student attended at least one after school study session for the AP test.

They all did, so on Monday, Rowles will take them to the historic Oakfield Cemetery in Oakfield, Texas. It wasn't exactly the field trip the students were expecting.

"Mr. Rowles wouldn't tell us where we would go," junior Mandy Jimenez said. "He just promised a really cool field trip. I thought he was kidding when he announced that it was to a cemetery."

Rowles said the Oakfield Cemetery is "a really cool field trip."

"I mean, people are dying to get in there," he chuckled. "Seriously, though, the cemetery has so much history to share. We are going to have a special tour of the grounds, and our tour guide will talk about the architecture, the burial practices and even the reason for so many deaths in one particular year."

Junior Marcy Bruffle said she wasn't excited when she first heard about the field trip, but now the idea is growing on her.

"It's a really old cemetery," she said. "Some of the headstones date back to the 1800s. If I can get over the creepiness of being in a cemetery, I think I will actually learn a lot."

**Story 5 — Write: 1-line main headline counting 10-16 and a 1-line secondary headline counting 26-32**

With construction on the student parking lot beginning Monday, crew chief Stan Soler thought he was prepared. His crew worked all weekend putting up signs to redirect student traffic around the construction.

"We are working on the exit, so we had to move all traffic to our new exit," Soler said. "We put up 10 temporary signs to ensure clear instructions."

His plan was flawless until the final sign. Students were directed to go right out of the new parking lot exit instead of left. A right turn sent all of the cars into a dead end.

"It was a nightmare once we realized what was going on," he said. "We had more than 30 student cars stuck in this dead end, and more were headed the same way."

Soler said his construction crew quickly turned into traffic cops.

"We had every crew member helping get the students out," he said.

Junior Gage Draper said he was one of the first cars to follow the sign to the dead end.

"Everyone pretty much followed me out," he said. "Then, there were so many cars I couldn't turn around to try to get out. It was crazy."

**Story 6 — Write: 1-line headline counting 26-32**

After enduring two rattlesnake bites while on a jog in Trail Creek Park, science teacher Natalie Pho appears to be on the mend. Pho was moved from the Intensive Care Unit at Leaguetown Hospital to a regular room last night.

"The doctors say her recovery is quite remarkable, and we hope to have her home in a few days," Bruce Pho, her husband, said.

Mr. Pho said his wife was jogging her usual 10-mile route when a cyclist lost control and forced her into the high grass. As soon as she ran into the grass, she said she felt two quick pricks and then searing pain in her right calf.

"She started screaming, and the cyclist rushed over to help," her husband said. "The guy called for an ambulance, and Natalie had an anti-venom shot within 15 minutes of the bites."

Dr. Shai Tsur said he administered four more anti-venom shots after she arrived at the hospital.

"We feared she might lose part of her leg," Dr. Tsur said. "Both bites were severe. Mrs. Pho has made a remarkable recovery, and I believe she will be 100 percent in a month or two."

Dr. Tsur said a quick recovery is unusual for rattlesnake bite victims.

"Often our patients have long roads to recovery," he said. "And at times, we've had to amputate limbs. Mrs. Pho is very lucky, indeed."

# **DO NOT DISTRIBUTE TO STUDENTS BEFORE OR DURING THE CONTEST!**

**STATE • 2016**

## **HEADLINE WRITING CONTEST TIPS AND SAMPLES**

*Contest Director: Give one copy to each judge to use during critique/judging. Also, staple one copy of the contest and one copy of the contest tips to each student's returned entry. The purpose of the tips is to provide immediate feedback to students. However, it is not meant to replace written comments from the judges.*

1. Headline writing is different than the other contests. It is suggested you pace yourself. You have about 7 1/2 minutes for each headline. Don't watch the clock but be aware of the time you are taking to complete a headline. It is better to have four or five good headlines rather than six mediocre ones.
2. When writing the headline, first highlight or underline all the important words in the story. Then write a sentence based on those highlighted words.
3. After you have your first sentence, go back and begin editing out words. If you have a multi-line headline, separate the lines at a recommended area. This means you should not split phrases or ideas. Make sure all types of phrases — noun, verb, adverbial, adjective and prepositional phrases especially — are on the same line. Continue eliminating words until you get to a point where the headline fits. It may be necessary to re-write the headline one or more times or to take a different approach before you get the key idea. Remember to eliminate all unnecessary words such as article adjectives (a, an, the). In many cases a comma (,) can substitute for the word "and."
4. You may use a thesaurus or dictionary, either bound or electronic. You should maintain consistency between upstyle and downstyle. You may write in block letters.
5. Make sure you are within the prescribed count. Judges are instructed to disqualify any headline that is over or under the prescribed count.
6. Write headlines using active verbs in either present, future or present perfect tense. Follow the style of the headline — if it is a fun story, write a fun headline; consequently, if it is a serious story, write a serious headline.
7. Do not sacrifice accuracy for creativity or cuteness.
8. Normally, the main headline is used to grab the reader's attention. It is not necessary, although it is possible, to have a verb in the main headline when you have a secondary headline. The secondary headline should do one of two things: emphasize the significant aspects of the story or emphasize the unusual.
9. Please note that AP does not have a style dealing with headlines. Most newspapers create their own style, so using numbers or spelling them out is acceptable either way as long as the writer is consistent.

The following are additional basic headlines rules for you to follow:

- avoid starting the headline with a verb
- generally avoid using names
- always use single quotes
- avoid using the same word twice in a headline
- use active verbs, not passive verbs
- try to write in present or future tense
- avoid unfamiliar abbreviations
- do not end the headline with a period

## ★ STORY #1

<b>No bad choice</b>	13
Valedictorian to reveal	23
Ivy League selection	20

## ★ STORY #2

Seniors advance	15
in journalism,	14
make LHS history	16

## ★ STORY #3

Doctor releases Diamond	23
to play in state tourney	24

## ★ STORY #4

<b>A trip to die for</b>	17
AP history class to tour	24
Oakfield Cemetery Monday	24

## ★ STORY #5

<b>Left is right</b>	13
Awry traffic sign causes jam	28

## ★ STORY #6

Pho recovering after snake bites	32
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**State Meet • 2016**  
**Headline Writing Entry Sheet**

All letters (upper and lower case), numbers, punctuation marks, symbols and spaces count as one (1). Place one letter or other unit in the appropriate spaces below. Remember to leave spaces between words. Note that the number of lines you are given on this sheet corresponds to the number of lines required for each headline. **Write your number on the upper right-hand corner of this sheet.**

■ Headline Number 1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
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■ Headline Number 2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
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■ Headline Number 3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
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■ Headline Number 4

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

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*main headline*

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*secondary headline*

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■ Headline Number 5

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

\_\_\_\_\_

*main headline*

\_\_\_\_\_

*secondary headline*

■ Headline Number 6

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

\_\_\_\_\_

# 2016 Headline State Champions

## 1A HEADLINE *Isaac Segura, Gorman HS*

### Story 1:

#### **Eight in all**

Every Ivy League accepts  
senior;no decision yet

### Story 2:

Seniors advance  
in journalism,  
to go to state

### Story 3:

Doctors release senior  
after mild concussion

### Story 4:

#### **Rowling in his grave**

Teacher awards students  
with trip to cemetery

### Story 5:

#### **End of the line**

Crew causes traffic for students

### Story 6:

Teacher survives snake attack

## 2A HEADLINE *Tanner Keeton, West Texas HS*

### Story 1:

#### **Above And Beyond**

Valedictorian To Reveal  
Ivy-League Selection

### Story 2:

Four Students  
Advance To State  
In Journalism UIL

### Story 3:

Senior Released To Pitch  
In State Tournament

### Story 4:

#### **Death By Studying**

Teacher Takes Students  
On Cemetery Field Trip

Story 5:

**Wrong Directions**

School Misguides Student Traffic

Story 6:

Teacher Recovers From Snake Bite

**3A HEADLINE**    *Avery Caddell, Paradise HS*

Story 1:

**'Iziah' Genius?**

Valedictorian To Decide  
On Ivy League School

Story 2:

Seniors Make  
School History,  
Qualify For State

Story 3:

Injured Senior Recovers,  
Will Pitch At State

Story 4:

**Killer Surprise**

Teacher Rewards Students  
With Cemetery Field Trip

Story 5:

**A Bad Sign**

Students Directed to Dead End

Story 6:

Teacher Survives Two Snake Bites

**4A HEADLINE**    *Alyssa Chavez, Connally HS*

Story 1:

**Top honors**

Senior to announce  
chosen Ivy League school

Story 2:

4 seniors advance  
to UIL state meet,  
for journalism

Story 3:

Doctors allow for senior  
to pitch at UIL state

Story 4:

**A trip to die for**

AP students to visit  
cemetery, learn history

Story 5:

**Flawed de-sign**

Crew helps cars sent to dead end

Story 6:

Pho to recover from snake bites

**5A HEADLINE**     *Leslie Puente, Roma HS*

Story 1:

**Ivy Draft Day**

Valedictorian selects  
school at honor's day

Story 2:

Four seniors head  
to UIL State meet  
in journalism

Story 3:

Senior pitcher cleared  
just in time for state

Story 4:

**Six Feet Under!**

AP History students  
tour Oakfield Cemetery

Story 5:

**Wrong Turn**

Sign mishap gets students stuck

Story 6:

Teacher recovers from snakebites

**6A HEADLINE**    *John Thornton Lindsey, Montgomery HS*

Story 1:

**Green with Ivy**

Valedictorian accepted  
by entire Ivy League

Story 2:

Journalism team  
heads to State  
for first time

Story 3:

Softball player returns  
after concussion scare

Story 4:

**Creeping Excitement**

Class to take trip  
to historic cemetery

Story 5:

**Right is Wrong**

Parking sign mishap creates jam

Story 6:

Teacher heals from snake bite