

## Story Ideas

- Each week you must generate stories which we can use in the future.
- You are required to turn in a *minimum* of one story idea each week.
- Story ideas are due Mondays before 8am (8:35am on Late Starts). Late work may not be accepted.

### ASSIGNMENT

- Bullet point your proposed story using detail.
- Your typed story ideas should include (but are not limited to):
  - Topic
  - Description of idea
  - Angle (*make sure it is unique and fresh!!!!*)
  - Information to include
  - How to adapt the story to our LZHS audience (if not obvious)
  - Sources:
    - At least one expert source and several reasons WHY he/she is an expert for this.
    - At least one print source from a reputable newspaper, magazine, or on-line news source, etc.
    - At least one man-on-the-street. Be sure to say what type of person your MOTS is (A science teacher? A sophomore girl? A church deacon?) and WHY you need that type of MOTS.
  - Other (design, sidebars, info-graphics, etc.)

### FORMAT

- Follow the example below for proper formatting.
- Make a header so your name and the date of the idea/clip appears on each page
- Put each story idea on a separate page.
- Staple any print sources/clips to your idea.

### EXAMPLE:

**Name Goes Here**

**August 2007**

**Adapt for: first issue or last issue of the year**

**Section: features**

#### **Summer (Career) Camp**

Description

- Kids don't just "go to camp" anymore – they look for camps which help them prepare for their future careers
- Area colleges offer "camps" which are really summer internships and college classes in disguise.

Angle

- The changing face of summer camp

Information to include

- Personal accounts from several people at various camps
- In-depth conversations with sponsors/teachers of such camps
- Data which details how internships/summer coursework help students find jobs

Sources

- expert source: Hayleigh Colombo, senior – she attended cooking school for a week this summer

- expert source: Linda Brozyna, senior – she attended journalism “camp” at Northwestern University for three weeks and wrote 13 articles during her stay
- man on the street: random student-aged people at the various “camps”
- man on the street: College Counselor
- print source: *Daily Herald* article (“From Camp to College”), July 2007

#### Sidebar

- if running a Review: photo sidebar of people who attended career camps with quality comments about why they chose to attend and what it meant to them
- if running a Preview: area career camps, how to get enrolled, cost, locations, etc.

### **EXAMPLE:**

#### **Name Goes Here**

**July 2005**

**Adapt for: any upcoming issue**

**Section: news or features; possibly okay for viewpoint**

#### **Teen Driving**

##### Description

- *Dateline* ran a special Friday, July 8, 2005 about teens and cameras being used in their cars to help monitor their driving (fabulous!!); the program highlighted an experimental program in Minnesota that showed kids’ driving improving by having to watch tapes with their parents of their driving adventures (scary); all kids improved, with fewer accidents and more seat belt use; all kids admitted the program made them better drivers

##### Angle

- Big Brother’s watching you, but it’s for your own good

##### Information to include

- Recap the findings from the report and try to secure interviews with those who conducted the study
- Localize the story to our new drivers – interview multiple “new” drivers, their parents, and driver’s ed teacher

##### Sources

- expert source: Dan Strickler, drivers’ ed teacher
- man on the street: current students going through our drivers’ ed program
- man on the street: parents of new drivers
- print source: IDOT and/or insurance institutes/companies (for stats on drivers, fatalities, etc)
- expert source: the company who manufactures and distributes the cameras (website? phone interview?)
- published source: *Dateline*

##### Sidebar

- Other mechanisms on the market for parents to track new drivers (*Dateline* highlighted a lot of them)
- Recent changes to IL driving laws for teen drivers – new legislation puts kids’ driving records online so parents can check up on them (What do kids, parents think of this? How does the program work? What does it cost? How long are the records online?)