



2025 IHSA JOURNALISM
STATE FINALS: YEARBOOK COPY WRITING

DIRECTIONS & RULES

You are a staff member of the Abraham High School (Middleland, Ill.) yearbook staff, *The Annual*. Your editor has assigned you to write the yearbook copy for the student section. Use the information gained from this prompt to help you write your story.

Judges will evaluate the efforts as to how well written and organized it is, how accurate it is, and if proper style and mechanics were followed.

All information that is available is listed. Do not make up any additional information.

At the top of your document, type "School Code: ####" with your individualized code numbers. Copy block should be 350 words. You are permitted to use an AP Stylebook and dictionaries. Type the final word count at the bottom of the story before turning it in

Start Time: 11:30 AM

Work must be submitted to Google Drive by: 1:00 PM



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Student Council Leadership Workshop

Each year the Abraham High School Student Council attends a leadership week-long workshop in the summer at Illinois State University where they learn basic leadership principles from various professionals. They take what they learn and think about how to apply them to our school. They bring back ideas for events and procedures to help them have a successful year based on the goals they make at the workshop.

This year, thinking of the political climate of the campaign season, they decided to hold a civility forum specifically about issues facing our country and how to communicate with people who may have different opinions and values from you.

The format of the forum was based on a process they learned at the workshop. Forum participants, who included a communication professor, a political science teacher, a local politician and a news anchor at TV16, agreed in advance to abide by the format.

At the end of the forum the audience was broken into groups for some practice. Each group was led by one of the panelists or a communication graduation student at ISU trained in interpersonal communication.

The event lasted two hours.

StuCo sponsored it, with help from the social studies department and the Middleland School District office. It was held in the auditorium and breakout groups met in the cafeteria.

Social studies classes offered extra credit to students who attended and wrote a one-page reaction paper about something they learned.

About 150 people attended.



QUOTES

Ronald Vaughn, Senior, StuCo President

This isn't just about the national arena. We know people in AHS have different backgrounds and opinions, and we want everyone to feel safe and comfortable here. So, we decided a good start to making that happen would be to hear some tips and suggestions on how to be respectful and kind to one another. Not just tolerate, but understand.

Jermaine Soto, Junior, StuCo member

This isn't a one-off. This kind of communication needs to be nurtured and practiced. But what a great start. I think something like this can really make a difference at AHS.

Anita McGraw, AHS Principal

I am so proud of this year's Student Council. This group, of course, likes the fun things it sponsors like Homecoming and Winter Carnival. But to look at our school's real challenges and try to address them—well, bravo! This is a true group of leaders.

Katie Erikson, Senior

I liked seeing Joe Marren from TV16. We watch him every night. He's such a respected and public person. To hear his personal tips for navigating the political climate was really useful.

Lexie Gaede, Sophomore

I just came for the extra credit, but it was interesting.



SUBMITTING YOUR WORK

1. Upon completing your work, be sure your four-digit school code is at the top of the document.

Be sure your name or school name do not appear in the document or file name.

2. Turn your work into a PDF (File > Save as > Save as Type) and name the file as follows:

Four Digit School Code – Event Name

So your file name should look like this...

1234 – Yearbook Copy Writing.pdf

3. Go to www.ihsa.org/Journalism-State-Series

4. Find your event and click the “Submit Work” link that applies to it.

5. Select the PDF of your work to upload. In the First Name box, type your four-digit school code. In the Last Name box, re-type your four-digit school to confirm.

6. Once you are prompted that your document as uploaded successfully, please log out if you are using a Heartland Computer.