



Policy wording possibilities

- As preservers of democracy, our schools shall protect, encourage and enhance free speech and positive exchange of ideas as a means of protecting our American way of life.
- The XXXXXX, the official newspaper of XXXXXXX, has been established by board of education policy as a public forum for student expression and as a voice in the uninhibited, free and open discussion of issues.
- The XXXX and its staff are protected by, and bound to, the principles of the First Amendment and other protections and limitations afforded by the Constitution and the various court decisions implementing those principles
- Online media produced in the Online Journalism course or by XXXXXX students may be used by students to educate, to inform and to entertain both the school and the cyber community and are entitled to the same protections, and subject to the same freedoms and responsibilities, as all other student media as outlined in this policy.
- The XXXXX and its staff will strive to not publish any material determined by student editors or the student editorial board to be unprotected, that is, material that is libelous, obscene, materially disruptive of the school process, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, a violation of copyright or electronic manipulations changing the essential truth of the photo or illustration. Specific definitions of protected and unprotected speech can be found in Law of the Student Press published by the Student Press Law Center in Washington, DC.
- The XXXXXX editorial board as a whole will be responsible for determining editorial opinions, which represent the opinions of a majority of the editorial board. No single member of the XXXXXX can be held responsible for editorial content decisions. Any student may be a member of the staff, with or without prior journalism experience or enrollment on the staff for credit.
- With this in mind, student journalists have sole right to determine content of official student publications. By not interfering with Times or other publications content, school officials are therefore not liable for or responsible for, content. The XXXXX adviser will not act as a censor.
- The XXXXX editorial board reserves the right to accept or reject any ad in print or on the Web.
- In case involving political or issues advertising, efforts will be made to solicit all points of view. The ultimate decision for all advertising, in print or on the Web, rests with the XXXXXX editorial board.

- The XXXXXX may report student, staff, faculty and alumni deaths as the editorial board is made aware of them. We reserve the right to decide not to cover a death based on relevance, timeliness and circumstances decided on by the editorial board. In cases the editorial board decided not to cover death, letters to the editor in regard to that death may be accepted.

- The XXXXX provides a full opportunity for student to inquire, question and exchange ideas. Content should reflect all areas of student interest, including topics about which there may be dissent or controversy.

- Freedom of expression and press freedom, as described in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, are fundamental values in a democratic society. The mission of any institution committed to preparing productive citizens must include teaching students these values, both by lesson and by example.

- Because school officials do not engage in prior review, and because the content of NEWSPAPER NAME is determined by and reflects only the views of the student staff and not school officials or the school itself, its student staff members assume complete legal and financial liability for its content.

- The adviser of NEWSPAPER NAME will not act as a censor or determine the content of the publication. The adviser will offer advice and instruction, following the Code of Ethics for Advisers established by the Journalism Education Association and the Code of Ethics of the Society of Professional Journalists. School officials shall not fire or otherwise discipline advisers for content in student print or electronic media that is determined and published by the student staff.

- Electronic media (including online, broadcast and social network content) produced by journalism students at SCHOOL are entitled to the same protections – and subjected to the same freedoms and responsibilities – as content produced by journalism students at SCHOOL for print publication. As such, electronic media also will not be subject to prior review or restraint.

- NEWSPAPER NAME will accept letters to the editor, guest columns and news releases from students, faculty, administrators, community residents and the general public. All submissions must include the author's name, address, e-mail, phone number and signature. All submissions will be verified.

Users of NEWSPAPER NAME'S website will be required to register and provide their names, addresses, e-mails and phone numbers. Users will be required to sign and abide by the website's terms of agreement.