



2024 IHSA JOURNALISM STATE FINALS: **RADIO NEWS**

DIRECTIONS & RULES

You are a staff reporter for Abraham High School's radio station WMIL (Middleland, Ill.). The station news manager has assigned you to attend a narcotics demonstration put on by the Normal Police Department's (Normal, Illinois) K-9 unit and put together a story on it.

You will attend a live demonstration put on by the officers on the Heartland Community College campus. Weather permitting, it will occur in the grass area southeast of the Auditorium. In the event of inclement weather, it will occur on the auditorium stage.

Using your own recording equipment, the interview, and the background information provided on the subsequent pages, create a 75-second MP3 news broadcast clip with a minimum of two sound bites from the interview for the station. Each story must end with: "Reporting for WMIL, this is (your name)."

Available equipment may include, but are not be limited to: MP3 players, laptops, iPad, cell phones, and any other audio recorder.



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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

K-9 Officer Shane Bachman & K-9 Thor

19 years of service as an officer with Normal Police Department

16 years of service with the K-9 unit

Current K-9 partner: Thor

Breed: Belgian Malinois

Age: 9 years old

Specialty: Full-service narcotics detection K-9

K-9 Officer Max Yanor & K-9 Bond

4 ½ years of service as a police officer

2 ½ years of service as an officer with normal police department

6 months of service with the K-9 unit

Current K-9 partner : Bond

Breed: German Shepard

Age: 1 ½ years old

Specialty: full-service narcotics detection K-9

Tentative Demonstration Schedule (some elements may change if indoors)

- 1) Introductions
- 2) Brief description of training and narcotics discipline
- 3) Live - narcotics detection demonstration
- 4) Discussion on additional disciplines –
- 5) Tracking / article searches / building searches / apprehensions
- 6) Live – apprehension session with both K-9s
- 7) Q&A interview session
- 8) One-on-one interview session

Normal Police Department K-9 Unit Overview

There are two K-9 teams in service at the Normal Police Department. The K-9s and handlers not only assist the Patrol Division, but also the Department's VICE Unit and other local law enforcement agencies. The unit conducts vehicle searches, building searches, suspect tracking, area searches, and article searches. K-9 officers also conduct school searches at the request of school administrations.

Both K-9 teams received their training at Vohnliche Kennels located in Denver, Indiana. The Department canines are trained to respond to drug odors in the passive alert manner.



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SUBMITTING YOUR WORK

1. Upon completing your work, name your file your four-digit school code and be sure your name or school name do not appear in the file name.
2. Go to www.ihsa.org/Journalism-State-Series
3. Find your event and click the “Submit Work” link that applies to it.
4. Drop your audio file in the folder and make sure it uploads.
5. Please note that if you open any other contestants work in the Google Drive, you will be disqualified (file history will be reviewed).