



## 2022 IHSA VIRTUAL JOURNALISM SECTIONALS: EDITORIAL WRITING

### **DIRECTIONS & RULES**

You are a staff member of the Abraham High School's The Standard (Middleland, Ill.). Your editor has assigned you to write an editorial appropriate for the topic covered in the background material. Your editorial will be for the next issue of The Standard. The word limit will 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. Entries will be judged on the quality of the arguments and writing, organization, and proper style and mechanics. At the top of your document, type "School Code: ####" with your individualized code numbers.

Start Time: 11:30 AM

Work must be complete: 1:00 PM

Submitted stories will be run through plagiarism software. If any submitted stories are flagged for plagiarism, the competitor and advisor will be alerted and given a chance to review and refute the flagged work prior to a decision on disqualification by a games committee.



## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

As budgets are being cut and school districts have to find ways to trim their finances, the AHS school board is voting next week on whether to issue a \$9 million dollar mission bond to be used to build a second gymnasium at the high school.

Opponents of the gym have taken to social media and attended community meetings to speak out against the plan, saying they don't want their taxes to go up to build something they believe isn't necessary to educate students.

Supporters, on the other hand, have defended the decision by a district Facilities Improvement Committee to include a new gym in the plan, saying it's getting more difficult to schedule activities, games and other events in one gym.

On February 1, voters will go to the polls to vote on the bond. If passed, the money would provide the funding to build, furnish and equip the addition of a gymnasium.

### **Superintendent Keegan Meyers:**

We have experienced steady growth in our school and district over the past 15 years. Our gym classes are bursting at the seams and student involvement in athletics is at an all-time high. The addition of this second gymnasium will positively impact all of our students, as well as our community.

### **Athletic Director Nancy Pendergrast:**

I understand the points being made against the second gymnasiums, but it's important to remember that athletics are an extension of the classroom. Extracurriculars are the carrot that help keep many of our students coming to school, engaged and eligible. If the new gym doesn't happen, we may be unable to field lower-level teams in some sports or cut athletes.



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### **English Department Chair Roger Barnes:**

I am not opposed to athletics by any means. My son Ryan played soccer here and had a great experience. But, I believe there are greater educational facility upgrades and expansions that must be addressed before we consider a new gym. We are overcrowded for many required classes and enrollment is

### **School Board Member Perry Bangert:**

I cannot in good conscience vote for the second gym until other facility needs are met first.

### **Student Billy Burns:**

We need this! Freshman basketball had to practice at like 9 PM last year because we couldn't get gym time. Our lockerrooms and weight room are trash. Kids are gonna start transferring to George Washington High School.

### **Student Molly Robinson:**

I plan to major in art in college and don't think most of our art studios or school supplies have been updated in at least a decade.

### **Citizen Doloris Marchmen:**

These kids today don't know how good they have it. This school is a palace compared to when I attended. They should be grateful for what they have. The administration and school board should be ashamed for asking for another gym and asking for people like me to pay for it with my tax dollars.

### **Citizen Tasha Hendricks:**

I coach my daughter's fourth grade basketball team in the community and know how hard gym time can be to get for practice. I think it is a positive that so many kids want to be involved in athletics and we should embrace that by providing them opportunities.

### **Citizen Bob McGuffie:**

You gotta keep up with the Jones. If we have top-notch facilities, people will keep moving here and that should take care of the taxes.



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### SUBMITTING YOUR WORK

Please follow the instructions below carefully, as this will be very important in our ability to receive, process, and distribute your work for judging.

1. Determine how you are going to get your work to your advisor (email, school network, flash drive, etc.).

2. You will need your Sectional Code & School Code to name your files. If you don't know your codes, you can find them on the email attachment or at:

[www.ihsa.org/Sports-Activities/Journalism/2022-State-Series](http://www.ihsa.org/Sports-Activities/Journalism/2022-State-Series)

3. Output your story as a PDF. The name of your PDF file should be your Single Digit Sectional number – Event Category – Four-Digit School Code.

Example below:

**1 – Editorial Writing – 1234**

4. Submit the file to your advisor and confirm they received it.