

Contest 03: Feature Writing

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Write your feature story using any word processing program you choose.
- Next, convert the file to a PDF for submission.
- Entries must be uploaded by 6 p.m. CDT Oct. 18, 2021.
- **DO NOT INCLUDE YOUR NAME OR SCHOOL NAME ON YOUR ENTRY.**

WHAT JUDGES LOOK FOR

- Feature lead that makes reader want to read on
- Colorful details
- Use of direct quotes and anecdotes
- Feature copy that appeals to the readers' interest
- Emotional impact of copy
- Ability to find the news peg
- Accuracy, completeness and elimination of extraneous material
- Elimination of libelous statements
- Few convention errors; consistent use of journalistic style

ASSIGNMENT:

Using any of the information provided on this prompt sheet, write a feature story of no more than 350 words. You may NOT make up additional facts or quotes or do any additional research to find more information.

TOPIC: FINE ARTS FESTIVAL

Central High School
1700 W. Olney Ave., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19141
Newsmagazine: The Independent, Vol. 46, No. 3 (Nov. 5, 2021)

INFORMATION

- Each year Central High School students participate in an all-day event created to give them some in-depth exposure to the fine arts.
- The event was Nov. 1, 2021, and included a series of six 45-minute sessions that students rotated through during the day.
- A week ahead of the event, students received a program with descriptions of the 36 different sessions available. Most were presented by local professional artists or others involved in local theaters, dance studios, museums or art galleries.
- The day's schedule included two general categories: Performance Art (including presentations in areas such as dance, music, theater and musical theater, magic, mime, storytelling, puppetry, circus arts) and Visual Art (including presentations in areas such as animation, ceramics, drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, design, crafts, photography, video, film making and architecture).
- Most sessions involved hands-on activities, and students were encouraged to dress in clothing that allowed them to move easily and also get messy.
- The three gyms had live demonstrations for students to observe during their lunch break or as one of their selected sessions. Some demonstrations included glass blowing, theatrical make-up lessons, yarn spinning, a juggler, a violin maker, an advertising food stylist and a vocal coach.
- Local professional artists also set up exhibits of pencil and charcoal drawings, leather work, metal, oil, acrylic and watercolor painting, photography, print making, sculpture and woodworking around the building.
- The AP Art Studio class presented live demonstrations of the various media available at Central High School in the different art classes.
- Lauren Gaither, fine arts department chair, has organized the event for seven years.
- During the lunch break, students were also given time to do some chalk art in the common area in front of the school on the sidewalks and main entrance.
- The final activity of the day was a student showcase in the Central Auditorium. Tryouts were held Oct. 14. A group of graduate students from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia selected the 10 student performances from 28 acts that tried out.

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QUOTES:

- “I love the Fine Arts Festival because it gives all of us a chance to learn about a lot of different areas of the arts that we have never been exposed to because our class schedules are so full already. The final event of the day is the best part when we get the opportunity to see how talented so many of our fellow students are. It is unbelievable what people can do that we all just never knew about.” — Brent Quinn, junior
- “My colleagues are also working to incorporate many of the Fine Arts Festival events into their lessons to show students the connection the arts have in so many areas of the curriculum.” — Lauren Gaither, fine arts department chair
- “I loved the Fine Arts Festival my first two years and was disappointed last year when COVID-19 led to virtual school. I know the art department tried its best to still make the event happen virtually with a variety of speakers and performances over Zoom, but it just wasn’t the same as seeing everything live.” — Grace Hardin, senior
- “My favorite part of the day was getting the chance to see all the ways that different fine arts could actually turn into careers for people. I guess I thought you had to actually be an artist or performer to have a career in the arts. I never really thought about all of the other aspects behind the scenes that go into marketing, promotions, set design, public relations and event planning. There are so many different opportunities.” — Ellie White, junior
- “Since this was my first year participating, I had no idea what to expect. All the upperclassmen told me how much fun it was, and it did not disappoint.” — Renaldo Lomara, sophomore
- “At lunch, I used the chalk and wrote the word ‘FLASHBACK’ because I liked the session about poetry. The author read a poem with that title about how we recall events from our past over and over again.” — Janya Jones, freshman
- “I have been dancing for 11 years with The Philadelphia Dance Academy, but not many people at Central have ever seen me perform, so I really wanted to participate in the showcase this year. A few other friends from the Academy tried out with me, and we were selected. I study all kinds of traditional dance like tap, jazz and ballet, but contemporary performance is my favorite.” — Theresa Slotz, senior
- “This was by far the best line-up of experts we have ever had. I really don’t know how students were able to select which five sessions to attend from all of the choices provided for them. I am also so very grateful to the fine arts community in the greater Philadelphia area for being so willing to give their time and share their expertise and talent with our students.” — Fletcher Goodwin, principal
- “Teachers in my department coordinated specific lessons with some of the sessions being offered so students could see how the arts and our history go hand in hand. I asked my students to specifically look for ways that visual artists had recorded details of historical events or specific time periods in their work.” — Krista Merriott, social studies teacher
- “I was honored to serve as one of the judges to select the student showcase performers, but I had no idea how difficult it would be. The talent was just stellar. Narrowing it down to a final 10 for the event was quite a challenge for the panel.” — Alexa Fashay, University of the Arts graduate student

SECONDARY COVERAGE: STUDENT SHOWCASE ACTS

- 1) Contemporary Dance: seniors Theresa Slotz, Cecilia Van Loenen and Nola Vehige
- 2) Percussion Solo: junior Trey Sparler
- 3) Duet: seniors George Worley and Renee Zotos
- 4) Ukulele Performance: senior Andrea Hensley
- 5) Rock Band: seniors Jeremiah Johnson, Kira McDaniels, Mac Sparks, Blake Vella, Allyson Zhara
- 6) Original Poetry Reading; junior Trina Marcus
- 7) Hip-Hop Dance: seniors Steven and Trey Anderson
- 8) Solo Guitar and Song: senior Madigan Charles
- 9) Solo Song; junior Stevan Rosalino
- 10) Duet: sophomores Natalie Biermann and Ashleigh Torrenson