



Write-Off Contest

Official Instructions

Contest Category: **NEWSWRITING**

1. You will listen to the E.W. Tucker keynote speaker presentation. After the 15 minute question-and-answer-period, you are to write a news story of no more than 350 words, including a headline, in ink on your own lined or plain 8.5 X 11 paper.
2. You are encouraged to take notes during the speech and interview. Contestants are allowed to use their notes during the writing portion of the contest. You may also consult a dictionary, thesaurus, AP Stylebook, and/or an electronic spellchecker.
3. Immediately following the presentation, a short break will be given before students will begin writing their stories.
4. You may not talk with the speaker or anyone else during the writing portion of the contest, except to clarify these rules.
5. You will be notified at 30 minutes and again at 15 minutes before the deadline to allow time for error checks. The final version may contain neat erasure marks.
6. The judges will look for news writing style; strong leads; use of facts instead of generalizations; use of direct quotes; pinpointing the news in the presentation and highlighting it; accuracy; completeness; elimination of extraneous material; elimination of libelous statements..
7. **DO NOT** write any identifying information on th written portion of the contest except your entry code number. Place your entry code number in the upper RIGHT hand corner of **each** page.

Contest Code Entry Number: _____

Your printed name: _____

Your high school: _____

(DO NOT put this identifying information on any page of the written portion of the contest. **If any identifying mark is mentioned or implied, the entry will be disqualified.** Only Your contest entry code is to appear on the written portion of the contest.