



F L E X I N G

some editor muscle

Missy wrote “I want to say just one word...wow! I never thought I could have so much fun and make such good friends in this short amount of time. We are going to maestro...the concept, the quality and the bonds of friendship formed is the best way to go. I’m sold” to her Madison Consolidated adviser.

Liz wrote “Burrell, now is the time that you can say ‘told ya so’ because I loved this whole experience” to her Hamilton Southeastern adviser.

In fact, every single 2004 workshop evaluation expressed similar sentiments. In short, these kids had a blast and learned so much. They left Franklin College pumped up and ready to roll. I stopped counting the number of times students wrote in their journals they had discovered keys to make the year’s publications their own.



But, I should have known 2004 was going to be special. We pushed back the camp one week to give some students time to end the school year and others time to enjoy a few days of summer. Our numbers grew with each day’s mail delivery. I hired from a pool of incredibly talented advisers and pulled in speakers who have shown their abilities to stimulate student thought. With that set-up, how could we go wrong?

Then, we threw into the mix new sessions. Students conquered yearbook theme page development and newspaper flag redesign on the first night. On Day Two, they examined how they approached stories and brainstorming, began hands-on digital camera work, explored the maestro concept and analyzed staff member personalities to help with problem-solving. Yes, that was one day of the four-day experience.

But, our best day involved Brown County. On a rainy, muggy Wednesday, we headed down to Nashville in maestro groups to pinpoint stories, interview sources, take photographs and sketch designs in four hours. These kids were bursting out of blue van doors before drivers could come to a complete stop; they were eager to land the best stories of the day. I saw them moving in and out of shop doors and weaving through pedestrian traffic. They were focused. They were reporters in search of a feature with a focus on the human element. All of them explored the same small town and generated quite different stories.

Finding the story, taking the photos and sketching design ideas on the back of restaurant napkins was only the beginning. The real world started when the vans unloaded next to Shirk Hall. Kids scrambled for the Shirk computers, exploring PageMaker, Quark, InDesign and Photoshop, to mold their designs. I had to walk through the computer labs at 6 p.m. to push kids toward the dining hall. They wanted “just a few more minutes” to reach stopping points. I think most of them gulped down their dinners so they could get back to work, racing their 11 p.m. deadline.

As advisers, we all want to see what happened in Shirk that evening happen in our own classrooms. Kids were bouncing ideas off each other, gathering around computers to consult and moving from Plan A to Plan B to Plan C without complete break downs. Oh, don’t get me wrong. We had problems. Computers didn’t quite work at times. Printers didn’t quite work at times. Kids argued occasionally. But, they worked through those problems. What an incredible learning experience.

A colleague of mine refers to the IHSPA Summer Editors’ Workshop as the best-kept secret in scholastic journalism. I agree. We’re small by choice with a focus on newspaper and yearbook editors so we can ensure a ratio of no more than 8 students to 1 group leader. When these kids left Franklin College, they knew that we knew who they were and had molded their group sessions around their needs.

Mark your calendars for June 13-16. Your editors will thank you, and when you see the result, you’ll kick yourself for not sending students earlier.

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Workshop Information

The state associaton’s journalism workshop has been designed to provide an optimum experience at a reasonable price, \$275 per student or adviser for 4 activity-packed days. The workshop fee includes most meals and air-conditioned dorm accommodations.

The student experience begins with people skills: working with diverse personalities, fostering team atmospheres, working in partnership with advisers and conflict management. Then, students move to teaching / leadership skills every editor should know. Finally, your editors practice their team skills. In one day, student teams will pull together an entire story package page, including stories based on actual interviews, digital photography and design based on Quark Xpress, InDesign or Pagemaker. This unique project involves a daytrip to Nashville in Brown County to find story topics, sources and photos.

**2005 IHSPA Summer Editors’ Workshop
June 13 - 16, Franklin College
Registration Form**

for Office Use Only
Check # _____
Membership Expiration _____

**If returned by May 15, your price is \$275 per editor.
If returned after May 15, your price is \$325 per editor.
To ensure one-on-one interaction between instructors and students, we cap the workshop at 64 students. Once we reach 64, we will have to turn away applicants.
Thank-you for understanding.**

The Summer Editors’ Workshop is designed as a leadership workshop and is meant for newspaper, yearbook and magazine staffers who take publications seriously. To ensure one-on-one instruction, IHSPA must limit registrations to three students per high school staff -- not per high school. Newspaper, yearbook and magazine qualify as separate staffs. Please duplicate this form as needed.

School Name: _____ **Adviser Name:** _____

Student #1: _____ male / female Staff: yearbook / newspaper

Street Address: _____ Telephone: (____) _____

City/Zip: _____

Student #2: _____ male / female Staff: yearbook / newspaper

Street Address: _____ Telephone: (____) _____

City/Zip: _____

Student #3: _____ male / female Staff: yearbook / newspaper

Street Address: _____ Telephone: (____) _____

City/Zip: _____

Please make checks / school purchase orders payable to IHSPA and mail to Dennis Cripe, IHSPA - Shirk Hall, 501 E. Monroe, Franklin College, Franklin, IN 46131. Feel free to call 1-800-852-0232 or 317/738-8198 (FAX: 317/738-8234).

