

**Do you want to**

- ✓ Write for a real audience?
- ✓ Learn and use desktop publishing skills?
- ✓ Help decide what your fellow students will read in the school paper?
- ✓ Work independently to complete assignments?
- ✓ Cooperate with others to produce a product?
- ✓ Get a head start on a career in journalism?
- ✓ Earn extra credit for work on the school newspaper staff?
- ✓ Improve your listening, reading, thinking, and writing skills?
- ✓ Qualify for the Broadcast Journalism Class -- Journalistic Writing 1 is a prerequisite

**Then sign up for  
Journalistic Writing  
1 and 2  
at Wheeling HS.  
Need more reasons?  
Read on.**

## **Journalism Kids**

### **Do Better**

**What's this? Wishful thinking or speculation on the part of a high school journalism teacher?**

**NO!!**

**It is the title of a research-based book by faculty members from three different universities: Jack Dvorak, Indiana University (Bloomington); Larry Lain, University of Dayton (Ohio); Tom Dickson, Southwest Missouri State University (Springfield).**

**Their research found:**

- ✓ Journalism kids make better high school and college grades in 10 of 12 major academic areas than their peers with no newspaper or yearbook staff experience.
- ✓ Journalism kids write better than their peers in 17 of 20 comparisons of collegiate writing.
- ✓ Journalism kids earn higher scores than their peers on the ACT standardized examination.

**How can you become one of these**

**“journalism kids”?**

**By signing up for Journalistic Writing 1 and Journalistic Writing 2, term-length English electives (each a 9-week 90-minute block).**

**While the benefits revealed by Dvorak, Lain and Dickson exist at any time of involvement in high school journalism, the most benefits come with the longest involvement. Students at Wheeling High School can earn English-related journalism credit every term once they take Journalistic Writing 1 and 2.**

**What do Journalistic Writing classes do?**

**They improve listening, reading, critical thinking, and writing skills. They provide opportunities for cooperative decision making and improved oral communication skills. They give students experience with cutting-edge technology in the publishing world.**

**Besides learning these life-long skills, Wheeling High School journalism students become part of**

one of the most consistently successful co-curricular programs WHS has to offer -- the Spokesman newspaper staff.

From 1964 through 1999 Spokesman student staff members have earned 420 individual awards and 165 staff awards, including 23 consecutive All-American titles from the National Scholastic Press Association. The Spokesman is a Charter Member of the National Scholastic Press Association Hall of Fame founded in 1988. In addition, the Spokesman has won 19 Golden Eagles from the Northern Illinois School Press Association and 22 George H. Gallup Awards from Quill and Scroll Society.

### Who teaches these classes?

Susan Hathaway Tantillo is in her 29th year as the journalism teacher/ Spokesman newspaper adviser at Wheeling High School. She is a nationally recognize veteran journalism teacher. She is one of 102 journalism teachers in the country to be designated a Master Journalism Educator by the national Journalism Education Association -- one of only two such teachers in Illinois. In the fall of 1995 she was named

Adviser of the Year by the Kettle Moraine Press Association at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. In November of 1996 she received the Carl Towley Award, the highest award given to an adviser by the national Journalism Education Association. In the summer of 1999 she spent much of her time co-authoring a new, soon-to-be-published high school journalism textbook.

### Why not become part of this valuable and successful program?

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Dvorak, Lain, and Dickson end one section of their Journalism Kids Do Better study this way: "Based on this solid statistical evidence, we can say that journalism classes and staff work on high school newspapers and year-books are definitive educational experiences in students' secondary-school careers that not only carry over into higher education and future life but also make the difference for distinction and successes while in high school itself."



**Journalistic  
Writing,  
an  
important  
elective  
opportunity  
for you  
at  
Wheeling  
High School**

**I created this recruiting brochure in the mid 1990s, shortly after Dvorak and Co. published Journalism Kids Do Better. I used it both in visits my students made to senior middle schools and in visits to freshman and sophomore English classes at Wheeling HS. Since I retired in 2001, the last time I used it was in 1999-2000 to recruit for the following year. I include it here to give you an idea of what might work for you in attracting students (and parents and even administrators) to your program. Even though we might not like the idea, we have to sell ourselves along with our programs!**

**Susan Hathaway Tantillo  
Wheeling (Ill.) HS, 1971-2001  
JEA Secretary  
JEA Awards Committee Chair  
Chicago Convention Local Chair  
stanti4733@aol.com**