

This Week's Focus: Appreciation

It's Thanksgiving week, so what better time to take a moment to think about all we're grateful for in our journalism lives. It's easy to get bogged down in the grind of our daily work. Students have interviews to conduct, stories to write, graphics to complete and photos to take. Advisers have lessons to plan, projects to grade and meetings to attend. It's easy to take for granted how hard we all work to complete the important jobs of sharing vital information with student audiences (your students' job) and teaching students to be better learners and citizens (your job).

THE LESSON: FIND WAYS TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION

At the core of all of this, remember we're working with kids. With that in mind, I challenge you to take time to appreciate the people in your world. It's important to realize there's a difference between appreciation and recognition, as you'll see from [this TED talk from Mike Robbins](#). Robbins says it's easy to recognize someone when they're doing well, but letting them know they're still important and valued when they aren't performing at their best is way more difficult. "Recognition is about performance and it's finite," Robbins says. "Appreciation is about people. It's less about what they do and more about who they are."

With that in mind, I'd like to share my appreciation to all of the advisers and students who have helped and inspired me over the years. I wouldn't be the teacher — or person — I am today without my experiences with you. If you have an adviser or someone you would like to thank, JEA is providing a special opportunity to show your appreciation [HERE](#).

FIND IT AT JEA.ORG:

Decorating, accessorizing publications room

Description

Students will research other media staffs around the country to see how they decorate and accessorize their publication rooms. They will interview other staff members and compile a wish list of items they would like to have in their room. Finally, they will decorate their space.

Objectives

- Students will interview peers from around the country.
- Students will develop a wish-list and budget for decorating their publication room.
- Students will decorate their space for the year.

The link

The link to the full lesson is [HERE](#). NOTE: This lesson is available free to **everyone** during the dates listed at the top of this page. Want to have access all the time? If you're not a member yet, consider joining JEA today for access to all of the resources.



Bell-Ringer

Jackie Uptegrove, Raytown (Missouri) High School

VAGUE TOPICS

My favorite bell-ringer activity is to give the students a vague topic. They have five minutes to write five open-ended questions to find out more information for the story and to determine if it's worth covering. For example, is it relevant to our student population or audience? Are they able to get detailed information to make it interesting? I put the topic on the projector screen. Students need pencil and paper. After five minutes, students have the opportunity to share with a partner.

"I was a new adviser last year. My advice for new advisers is to join various journalism organizations. This helps you gain curriculum help, get advice from other advisers, know about contests and gives students more opportunity to participate and get recognized for their work outside of the school walls. I also advise getting to know the other journalism

teachers in the district, if there are any. I am the only journalism teacher at my school, which can be very lonely and difficult to come up with new and creative lessons. Talking with the other high school teacher is very helpful to bounce ideas off of. If there isn't another journalism teacher in the district, make friends with someone in a neighboring district."



JEA members, I want YOU to share your awesome ideas with journalism teachers around the country. Fill out this [GOOGLE FORM](#) to be a part of this newsletter.

You've Got Style

Suggestions from Cindy*

MONTHS

Always capitalize the names of months. When a month is used with a specific date, abbreviate any month with more than five letters: Jan., Feb., Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov. and Dec. *Example: The convention begins Nov. 2.*

Spell months out when using alone or with a year alone. *Example: The JEA centennial year begins January 2024.*

Hint: The months that don't get abbreviated all happen in a row: *March, April, May, June and July.*

* Style pro Cindy Horchem, CJE, is a retired adviser and the current JEA business and projects coordinator