

2023 State Journalism Championship



#7 Newspaper Feature Writing

Time Limit – 1:15

Directions:

Students will assume the role of a reporter for a school newspaper and write a feature story based on the information below. Entries will be evaluated on originality, reader appeal and interest.

When you are finished:

- 1. Type your first and last name at the top right of the document.**
 - 2. Save your document as a PDF with the filename: yourfirstlastname_NPfeature_Class (For example: SusieSmith_NPfeature_ClassA).**
 - 3. Notify the proctor when you are finished.**
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From the given information, write a feature story as you would for the high school newspaper. You may use statements attributed to individuals as direct or indirect quotes. You may not change the meaning of a statement.

You are a reporter for *The Horizon*, the student newspaper of Horizon Heights High School.

Horizon Heights High School, located in the middle of the state, has an enrollment of 1,700 students in grades 9-12. Junior Joanna Lin, started stumbled upon jewelry making last year when she was quarantined for having COVID and was working on an assignment from her Business Teacher. After spending time experimenting with various jewelry styles, and scrolling through YouTube for assistance, Lin realized jewelry making was not just a hobby, but something she could profit from – so Nocturnal Jewelry was born. Nocturnal Jewelry, which Lin founded in 2022, is a business on Etsy that vends jewelry of all kinds, including earrings, necklaces, and bracelets, with the goal of providing minimalist accessories that enable customers to feel more confident. With a target market consisting primarily of teenagers, Lin aims to place an emphasis on affordability while offering products that are still appealing to her consumers.

Joanna Lin, Nocturnal Jewelry Creator

“I found the inspiration for *Nocturnal Jewelry* in owls, when I discovered that the prefix ‘noct,’ meaning night, is related to owls. This symbolism is emanated in my business’ logo, which features two, owl-like eyes. What I liked about Nocturnal was that owls are a symbol of Athena, which is why I made it my logo.”

“I feel like I’m oftentimes just following the trends but, I think a lot of jewelry is getting a lot more expensive, so I am trying to find and make higher quality pieces that aren’t as expensive as others.”

Qui Lin, Joanna’s Mom

“I am so proud of my daughter for taking initiative while being quarantined to completely change her life. She has done about 400 sales and currently has 2,000 followers on Etsy. Last month she even donated part of her sales to the local food pantry.”

“Joanna is interested in many things, but creating is her passion. I am proud she has been able to turn her passion into sellable jewelry. Even while running a part-time business she has managed to stay on top of her grades and finished this past semester with all A’s and one B.”

John Murphy, Business Teacher at Horizon Heights

“As part of her homework while stuck at home I challenged Joanna to come up with a mock business idea. Little did I know she would take that assignment and not look back! I am proud of her resilience and creativity. She has a solid business plan and is saving the money she earns for college.”

Audrey Muck, Nocturnal Customer

“I came across Nocturnal Jewelry while shopping on Etsy awhile back. I loved the unique patterns and fresh look. So far I have purchased two necklaces and a bracelet. I am constantly getting complimented when I wear them.”