

Directions for Assignments: April 6-10

- On an editorial page, people have the right and the ability to write in their opinions to you, in the form of letters to the editor. An ethical publication will print these, even if the opinions do not necessarily match up with your own, or those of the newspaper as a whole. However, you still need to consider parts of the code of ethics, such as good taste, accuracy, and also take into account the safety of others.

Students who are *new to Journalism this year*:

You will read Letter #1 and Letter #2. Pretend that people have written these letters to us. Using the Editing Symbols sheet, (the symbol you need to use is circled) mark any content in each letter that you would take out before publishing on our opinion page, based on the information explained above.

Students who have *taken Journalism before*:

You will read the “Copy Editing article (returning students)” and edit the article using the “Copy Editing Symbols (returning students).” The symbols that will be used are circled for you.

- *Everyone* should complete the Editorial Quiz as a “take-home” quiz. (You may use your notes, handouts, etc.)

You may do these assignments two ways:

- 1) **Either print them out at home and write directly on the sheets, OR**
- 2) **Use binder paper...while looking at the assignments on the screen, copy down the parts of the readings you would edit and show the appropriate symbols. For the quiz, number your paper and write down your answers.**

To turn in your assignments:

- 1) **If you have a scanner, you can scan and email them to me.**
- 2) **You can also take a picture of your completed assignment and email it to me.**
See your submission instructions that were sent via email.

My email address is: buschk@luhsd.net

#1
To the editor:

On June 6, California voters will go to the polls to vote in several hotly contested races, but in my opinion the BS issue that will most affect communities and families is the ballot measure on so-called "medical marijuana". If the initiative passes, 35 marijuana dispensaries will open across the bay area and people who claim financial and transportation challenges will be permitted to grow their own pot.

I sympathize with people who suffer from a chronic or terminal disease, but this is not about that. Most professional medical associations maintain that marijuana is not a medicine at all and that it should not be administered to patients. Among groups that have taken formal positions against "medical marijuana" are the American Medical Association, the British Medical Association, the Massachusetts Medical Association, the American Glaucoma Society, the American Society of Addiction Medicine, the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the International Federation of Multiple Sclerosis Societies and the American Cancer Society. Don't you think these groups know more about treating patients than the stoners?

According to the California Office of Campaign and Political Finance, the committee promoting the measure has raised over one million dollars. Of that amount, over 95% came from Berkeley, where the hippies are pursuing a national agenda to legalize marijuana.

This measure would permit people with marijuana cards to possess and carry a two month supply of marijuana, an amount that would ordinarily support a criminal charge of possession with the intent to distribute. The text of the measure is available online, but the salient parts of the initiative include:

- People would be permitted to carry marijuana if they obtain a marijuana card authorized by a physician. The cards never expire, allowing cardholders to use marijuana whenever the heck they want.
- People with marijuana cards would be permitted to carry up to a sixty day supply of marijuana. The law would direct the Department of Public Health to determine what a sixty day supply is. (It just may be that DPH should be attending to more important matters than this.)
- DPH "shall" issue authorization to a person to grow his own marijuana if he has a financial hardship, a physical incapacity or a lack of a dispensary within a reasonable distance. The word "shall" makes this a mandate, but the terms are not further defined.

Most states with "medical marijuana" laws have experienced crime in the neighborhoods where dispensaries are located as criminals target them for break-ins and their customers for robberies. People with medical marijuana cards have been caught selling their marijuana on the black market and shipping it to other states. Law enforcement agencies have reported young, healthy looking people with marijuana cards signed by doctors who have become easy marks.

Having been a policeman for 35 years, I know a few things about drug abuse. First, one of the factors that drive drug use among teens is perception of risk. If you let kids think that marijuana has value as a medicine,

more will smoke it. Second, while not all kids who smoke marijuana will move on to other drugs, the vast majority of people who become addicted started with marijuana. I have personally witnessed Liberty High School students getting arrested for possession of pot, and you know what? Those slackers have also been arrested for other crimes, such as vandalism and breaking and entering.

So would a medical marijuana law put more marijuana in the hands of kids? A recent study in Colorado where "medical marijuana" is legal revealed that 74% of kids in drug treatment said the marijuana they used was someone else's medical marijuana. In fact the median number of times these kids used that marijuana was 50.

Marijuana is a street drug; it is not medicine. The passage of the measure would lead to an increase in crime and the diversion of marijuana to adolescents. My officers and I have worked hard to make Brentwood a safer place and to suppress the availability of drugs in our community. I hope the voters of Brentwood see through the medical marijuana hoax.

--Anonymous

#2

Dear Editor,

Yesterday I was given the opportunity, with a few other concerned parents, to view a condom video that was recently approved by the Liberty Union H.S. District School Board. I feel that they never should have approved this film for mass viewing in high school.

If students have a need to see the video, their parents should check out a copy from the school library and view it in the privacy of their homes.

One of the arguments used by the proponents of condom distribution in the school system and for mandatory viewing of the video is: "All the kids are having sex, so we need to promote 'safe sex' by using a condom," and the video even implies that Trojans are the best!

I have a surprise for the School Board members. I know their kids are having sex, but my daughter Sara, and her group of friends are not.

If we need to teach kids how to have safe sex in school, why don't we also teach them how many drinks they can have before they get drunk? We should open a bar in the cafeteria, let them drink as much as they think is safe, then give them a breath analyzer afterward? Mr. Walsh could be the bartender, and Mrs. Branstetter can DJ the event.

Parts of the video go into detail explaining to these young people to make sure the date on the condom package hasn't expired, etc. What is next, teaching kids how to make sure the needles they may use are clean and safe?

The bottom line is that condoms break, and even if they don't break, they never prevent pregnancy, much less prevent AIDS or other communicable diseases.

If anything, the young students should be warned that a girl can get pregnant even if her partner is using a condom, and either of them can get AIDS or other diseases, even if the male is wearing a condom.

The School Board and the video are trying to give the students a false sense of security.

The individual members of the School Board should be held personally accountable for every girl in the district who becomes pregnant if her partner is wearing a condom. They should also be accountable for every student who contracts AIDS or any other communicable disease, if the male partner was wearing a condom. Since the School Board claims the use of condoms equates to safe sex, they should ultimately pay the financial consequences. The students will have to bear the emotional and medical consequences, perhaps for the rest of their natural lives.

As a former teacher, I plead for the School Board to reverse the decision it made.

Give us back the quality school system that caused many of us to move here. This kind of education is expected in San Francisco, not here in Brentwood.

-Kathy Richardsen

Copy Editing Symbols

The symbols presented below are for copy that has not yet been placed into columns. On the back are a set of proofreader's symbols that used for text has been placed in columns.

¶ Is a paragraph mark.	paragraph mark
Start a new paragraph. ↵	new paragraph
↵ This means run in—no new paragraph.	run in
Transpose <u>words these</u>	transpose
A circle around <u>ninety</u> or other spelled out numbers means use numerals.	use numerals
A circle around a numeral, such as ② means spell it out.	spell out
Circling a full name, such as <u>Pennsylvania</u> , means abbreviate.	abbreviate
Circling an abbreviation, such as <u>PA</u> , means spell out as a full name.	don't abbreviate
Three lines under letters or words, such as <u>u.s.</u> , means use uppercase.	uppercase
A slash through a <u>letter</u> means use lowercase.	lowercase
A wavy line under <u>text</u> means use boldface.	boldface
A straight line under <u>text</u> means use italics.	italics
These marks mean close up the space.	close up space
This mark mean insert space.	insert space
The word "stet" means ^{stet} retain the text as originally written.	retain original
A carat means insert ^a word.	insert word
This symbol means to delete.	delete
] These marks mean center. [center
A right bracket means flush right.]	flush right
[A left bracket means flush left.	flush left
For example, [↑] this means insert comma.	insert comma
Its [↓] easy to insert an apostrophe.	insert apostrophe
I said, [↵] Please insert quotation marks. [↵]	insert quotation marks
Insert a period after this sentence ○ or ⊙	insert period
These are ready-made correction symbols.	insert hyphen
To insert a dash [↵] do this.	insert dash

COPYREAD USING SYMBOLS

MANILA, Philippines - A 16-years-old in coming high school senior wins the coveted English Speaking Union's (EUSU) International Public Speaking Competition last Friday in London.

Dapul's five-minute speech entitled, "Fish mucus and Foot Fungus" focused on how scientific research could serve as a cure-all for many of the world's problems.

Gian Carlo Dapul, a student at the Philippines Science High School, bested almost sixty participants from 35 countries with the competition's theme, "Frontiers New."

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