

Sara Hummadi

Broadcast Journalist of the Year Portfolio

This year, through broadcast journalism, in a time where being a journalist is seen as disparaging by many, I felt a bigger and greater passion to share people's stories, report on situations within our town, and remind people of particular things through PSAs. Being a journalist encapsulates so much — telling truths, stories, and sometimes bringing happiness when showing glimpses of luck and hope. As a high school broadcast journalist, I made it my goal to do exactly this.

At the start, this year was an awakening, a call to me that journalism was my place. As I began my senior year as a producer where in the classroom I was a leader and example for passion in reporting, every move I made was going to be seen by someone in some way, shape, or form, in the MHS1 room or in any other classroom when our news show was displayed. As we put on our first show, I put forth a segment that fulfilled one of my goals — a video where teachers defined student slang, bringing smiles and laughter among students and staff. Moving forward, I brought the story of a teacher who made it out of a tornado unharmed, covered a recall controversy, encouraged students to attend more basketball games and volleyball games, brought a little more laughter with a “guess the lyrics” for teachers segment, and many more.

These things stuck with me. Video-making and storytelling extended far beyond the school day and 8 p.m. deadlines. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, a part of me knew that reporting, storytelling, and evoking emotion would not be in arms reach again for the rest of the year. Still — with every piece of passion and drive inside me I didn't want to give up without giving a little more. I learned that if you want to reach an audience and you want to capture stories, you can do so safely from home and through social media. So, from my house, I put together a yearbook advertisement and a special video for the class of 2020 which included a series of messages from teachers to students. I felt a feeling of comfort but a feeling of duty. Journalism is not a thing that comes and goes, I watched reporters stand still and cover stories with excess precautions, and I felt that as a student, as I juggled online school and with my health and mentality during a time of isolation, I brought several minutes of joy and nostalgia to those that attended McKinney High School with me. I learned that there are no bounds to what journalism can bring— and that telling stories from the safety of one's home were feats of the unpredictability of journalism in this period of time.

Dallas tornado hits teacher's home

<https://vimeo.com/388048573>

After 10 tornadoes ripped through the DFW metroplex, soccer coach and geography teacher Brett Resiman was in the direct path of an EF3 tornado. He describes the moments before the tornado struck, moments during its arrival, and the eeriness that came after — thankful that he remained unharmed.

City councilman issues 'Black State of Emergency,' faces recall

<https://vimeo.com/422456774>

After declaring a “black state of emergency” in the state of Texas, Councilman Lashadion Shemwell received backlash for insinuating such ideas. His declaration prompted a petition that got nearly 3,100 signatures for his recall, the mayor, George Fuller, signing as well. Councilman Shemwell describes the worry and cause he has for standing by his declaration, and Mayor Fuller describes his weariness and distrust of what he calls an ill-intentioned cause.

MHS1 Dictionary

<https://vimeo.com/431309268>

Students walk through the halls talking in slang, using words and terms they coined to express themselves. As this happens, teachers hear and question their meanings. Teacher's knowledge of student slang was tested in this video that borrows from Urban Dictionary's style.

Basketball Game Promotional

<https://vimeo.com/380768472>

Many sporting events are attended by the student body, but basketball needed a boost. This promotional/hype video highlighted their hard work and encouraged students to attend their upcoming games.

The Lion 2020 Yearbook Ad

<https://vimeo.com/401772740>

The yearbook captures every moment students experience in their year. I intended on spotlighting these key moments that will be covered in the yearbook by using specific moments captured in video and photo as well as the students in each moment describing the memory. In total, I aimed to advertise buying the yearbook by reminding students of the memories that will be shown.