

[A Living Miracle](#) - After Ian suffered through a golf ball-sized tumor at just two years old, his family had low expectations for his survival. Ian should not have made it through cancer treatment, but nonetheless, he did and is a living miracle now at nineteen years old. This feature story shows a unique perspective into Ian's day-to-day life and takes an in-depth look at the relationships he has and his friendly personality. While this story is an unusual blend of a feature story and a mini-documentary, it truly captures Ian's essence in a new, creative way.

[Balancing a Brooklyn Knucklehead](#)- Jack Ryan, better known as "Black Jack," fell on hard times as a teenager living in Brooklyn, New York. Despite his self-esteem being constantly pushed down, he channeled his frustration and landed a career that changed his life. This feature captures his story and how a few basketballs changed his life.

[The Story Behind the Ink](#)- James Buster, a tattoo artist in North Texas, seems like an ordinary Christian gentleman: but his testimony takes the viewer on a roller coaster. This feature tells his life story simply after I asked the simple question, "What do your Christianity-related tattoos mean to you?". This is Buster's story behind the ink on his arms, highlighting his road to becoming a devout Christian after working with a group of illegal Mexican cartel workers and changing their lives.

[A New Ornament](#)- Every year, the President invites people to come and help decorate the White House for the holiday season. Mik Messer, a local resident in North, Texas, never thought that he would be chosen after simply filling out a quick form on Facebook. This story shows what this experience meant to him and what the process entailed.

[A Bow to Silence](#)- In this story, I worked with my partner, Grant Johnson, to hear the stories of Dallas-based Broadway performers and how COVID-19 directly impacted their lives. Taking a local stance on an international issue is crucial in the world of journalism, and we reached out and fought to find a way to tell their stories and shed light on their struggles during hard times. They talk about how this brings uncertainty to their financial lives, but how they are using this opportunity to help the community when they cannot help themselves.

As a member of Eagle Nation News since my freshman year, there is no way that I can truly encompass the influence it has on my life. I began as a reporter, intimidated by the upperclassmen, hoping that one day I would be on the leadership team. I wanted so badly to be an anchor that I often overlooked the importance of my job as a reporter. Many people in our program battle each other to be anchors, but what they do not realize is that reporting is the crux of journalism.

Stories are the biggest fundamental aspect of journalism, and reporters have the most important jobs. Throughout my years in ENN, I found my way to the positions of Executive Producer and anchor on top of the crucial role I had as a reporter. Anchoring taught me how to write journalistically and helped me overcome my social anxiety, and producing taught me leadership, but I could have obtained these skills in theatre or show choir. Reporting is where I learned how to be aggressive and to fight for the truth in a time in which the far right is threatening the media, and schools are censoring student journalists across the nation. I attended seven journalism/film conventions in hopes of hearing from professionals from around the world, and won numerous awards for my stories and anchoring, but the heart of my knowledge in journalism comes from observing my local community in Prosper, Texas and the thousands of stories waiting to be told; this is an aspect of journalism that I admire that led to my decision to pursue this as a career.

I was once assigned a feature story covering the Best Buddies Club to highlight the special education students at my school; however, the school did not let us use any footage of these students because it would portray them as “different” than everyone else. This was unsettling to me because I knew that these students have lives as special and unique as anyone else's, but the school was prohibiting me from sharing their stories. I felt that this was an injustice to the disabled community, so I decided to take a unique perspective and highlight my friend Ian Price, who suffered through brain cancer at 2 years old, which caused impairments in his motor skills and speech. In this story, I captured his favorite aspects of life to show how amazing he is and to represent other special-education students and their individualities positively—they should not be hidden or ignored simply because of their differences. This story received recognition and attention throughout the state, reaching hundreds of individuals who wanted to experience Ian’s loving personality.

Another time when I found a need for reporting was when there was a car accident near the local town center. I knew there was no way the story was big enough for the local media to cover, so I took it as my personal responsibility to inform the public of what really happened, knowing there was an inspiring reason behind the accident. The boy who crashed into the brick sign risked his own life to swerve out of the way of a car coming his way. The car coming toward him contained an entire family on its way to school, and the driver struggling to steer correctly with the heavy rain. Instead of hitting the oncoming car and potentially taking lives, the teenager went the opposite way and nearly took his own. His story deserved to be shared, so I told it to ensure that he was given proper justice and not made out to be a reckless driver.

Taking local stances on international issues is pertinent when recording history, so throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, I worked with my partner, Grant Johnson, to interview Dallas-based Broadway performers to see how they were being affected while Broadway was dark. Their entire living relies on their performances, but when they are unable to perform during uncertain times, they struggle to make ends meet. It is my job as a journalist to make voices such as the ones of these performers heard to correct social injustices and bring awareness to a topic. For instance, if I never reported on James Buster’s backstory on his road to being a tattoo artist, people would have never known how much depth there is to him, showing that a story reveals a person’s personality and life.. My time in Eagle Nation News gave me a burning passion to fight for what is correct, so now I can one day step into the professional setting to capture the beauty of this world, expose injustices, demand the truth, and continue to fight for the rights of student journalists.

I will never accept censorship as a journalist, I will report on history, give the public the facts, and use my confidence that I gained in ENN to change the way that journalism is viewed and end the oppression.