

Writing for Silver Chips has been one of the most empowering and enlightening experiences of my life. As a staff writer, I learned more about myself and about my community than I ever could have in a traditional classroom setting. As I gradually overcame my fears of conducting interviews, I gained a new self confidence that I didn't know I could exhibit. I learned to speak clearly and decisively to adults, and developed my ability to think critically on the spot to develop follow up questions. It's not an exaggeration to say that Silver Chips taught me more than any other class I took during my junior year of high school.

More than anything else, I've learned that journalism isn't just about passively reporting the facts. In reality, it requires more time, dedication, and self-reflection than I had ever imagined it could. Unlike other school assignments, when my editors assign me a story I become responsible for something greater than myself. Instead, I'm responsible for the stories and experiences of people who I may have never met, which makes it even more important for me to give my all into every story I write.

I've always taken my position on Silver Chips very seriously. As a journalist, I feel as though it is my responsibility to put 110% into every article that I produce, not just to uphold the integrity of our paper but to ensure that the voices that I feature are fairly and accurately represented. I did my best to fully educate myself about every aspect of a news story in order to provide readers with the most comprehensive approach possible, to give precedence to the voices of the people featured in my writing in favor of my own, and to consider and legitimize views and experiences different from my own when documenting trends and events.

It wasn't until I began writing for Chips that I came to understand the power of an individual story. I've been privileged to have been introduced to individuals with whom I would likely never have spoken had I not been assigned their stories. I've met a more interesting and diverse group of people in the last eight months than I had in my entire life previous to joining Chips. From a young trivia enthusiast to a good-natured centenarian to one of the strongest and most inspiring women I've ever met, I've been continuously astounded by the incredible depth of human experience that exists within a ten miles radius of my home.

Writing for Silver Chips has both opened my eyes to injustice and convinced me that I can do something about it. It has introduced me to new faces and taught me more about familiar ones. It has shown me the importance of hard work and demonstrated how rewarding it can be. I'm eternally grateful for the opportunity Chips has given me to learn more than I ever knew I could about my community, my school, and myself.

Creating Communities, far from home:

https://issuu.com/silverchipsonline/docs/silver_chips_oct_issuu/10

When protesting goes too far:

https://issuu.com/silverchipsonline/docs/november_issuu/10

Testing out trivia:

https://issuu.com/silverchipsonline/docs/silver_chips_dec_issuu/14

You too can YouTube:

https://issuu.com/silverchipsonline/docs/silver_chips_jan_issuu/20

From World War II to Super Bowl LIV: A 100-year-old Bethesda veteran tells his story:

https://issuu.com/silverchipsonline/docs/silverchipsmarch_issuu/28