

Liz Nedelescu

Ms. Benedict

McLean High School

June 24, 2022

NSPA Statement:

As a first-year journalism student, I knew immediately that I wanted to pursue my passion for illustration, and dived into it as soon as the year began. I had to first surpass a learning curve as I settled in, but had great mentors all around me, and was able to eventually emerge as a well-rounded cartoonist.

I started my journey by first exploring style and what a cartoon or illustration style meant to me specifically while communicating with writers about what they were looking for in each piece. The first semester was spent almost entirely in exploration as is shown through my original cartoon style in pieces 1 and 2. I then finally settled on a more permanent style and began to leave my mark. I helped many students out with last-minute requests, always putting my best effort even to create because it is something I love to do.

I learned how to take on difficult challenges, such as extensive pieces and elaborate requests as well as time management with short deadlines. Most importantly, I learned how to collaborate with others, even when working on individual projects. That is something that I will take from my role as a cartoonist in journalism and apply to my approach to new challenges in life. I appreciated how much trust everyone put into me this year, especially since it was a generally new experience for me. It was incredibly rewarding to have my work published for the first time, as well as being able to contribute my passion to a wonderful team of people. I look forward to continuing to learn and grow in the upcoming year.

## Portfolio:



### Piece #1:

This was a cartoon done for Diwali and religious holidays taking place in our county school system. This was one of the first pieces I made this year, and a lot of time and effort was put into it. I love the lighting effects that are presented.



### Piece #2:

This piece is part of the same crossfire article, but the side that argues against religious holidays. It is successful due to the color scheme, experimentation, and composition which I spent a lot of time on.



Piece #3:

Piece done in favor of an argument to give fine arts courses the same honors boost that academic classes receive. I strived to achieve crisp linework and create a great composition in order to showcase the difference between the two stances and try to get the readers to feel what a fine arts student might feel.



Piece #4:

This cartoon was about our much-needed renovations as a school, so I envisioned what tiny improvements or tweaks could make a difference. I took references from actual dysfunctional areas around our school and depicted our school, to make it more personal for the readers. I experimented with the color scheme to a great extent here in order to create the final product.



Piece #5:

This cartoon was purposed around showing how many children in the past year or so were treated as lab rats when placed back in schools with unknown safety conditions due to the pandemic. I worked hard to create a style that matched the tone of the article here and worked extensively on color contrast.