

### One-Page Statement

My final year of broadcast journalism closed off nearly a decade of reporting and announcing the news. I went into the year ready to cover as many school staples as I could while also taking on new challenges. As a result, I brought myself closer to my school community and realized just how impactful broadcast journalism has been for me.

Even though I've spent four years in school, I never once went to the club fair before covering it for the news show. In that way, broadcast journalism literally brought me to the community. At "Celebrate McLean," I had to balance noise from live music and laughter with my interviews. Even more difficult, I had to reflect the impact of student conversations and carnival games to a virtual audience. However, the experience taught me how to look for compelling B-roll, even if it wasn't always obvious.

I also covered this year's theater productions, where each show presented a new challenge. The fall production flipped the stage whereas the spring production had a pit orchestra that made it near impossible to get clean close-ups. However, the flipped stage and the pit orchestra immersed the audience in the show, reminding me that perfect shots don't always mean a perfect story. TheatreMcLean's shows always remind me of the human element in journalism and reinforce the unifying force of storytelling.

While I principally highlighted the community this year, I didn't shy away from the difficult topics either. I covered the Spanish Honor Society's Hispanic Heritage Month celebration. The event itself was full of dances, songs, and laughter. However, the interviewees all mentioned that the purpose of the event wasn't to dance the bachata or try new food but to bring together the marginalized Hispanic community. I took care to include the interviewees' words on how stereotypes affect students while also emphasizing the unifying nature of the event.

I covered an even more challenging topic when I looked at whether the national teacher shortage has affected my school. Seeking out teachers that have left my school over the last five years, I interviewed over ten different teachers who have left the teaching profession, discovering that not only insufficient compensation but also lack of administrative support and parents' treatment has spurred staffing shortages at my school and in my district. During this documentary, I had a unique obstacle: most of the teachers that left no longer lived in my school district. This meant virtual interviews and struggling to find footage of them teaching in the past. However, I tapped into videoediting to change those camera angles and worked overtime to find footage of students and create appealing infographics for B-roll. I even experimented with mini-voiceovers to introduce my subjects. In the end, I made a documentary that makes me proud both for its quality as well as its probing inquiry into the teacher exodus.

Going into broadcast journalism this year, I expected it to be my last year. I've since learned that's not possible. Being a journalist has put me in the middle of the biggest stories, allowing me to explore my school community and giving me a sense of pride and accomplishment that few things have. More than anything else, this year taught me just how irreplaceable broadcast journalism is. As I begin college, I'll search for a new space to continue broadcasting because now I know, I can't ever leave it behind.

## **The Teacher Exodus**

<https://youtu.be/PhiCBzKuRV4?si=ulVnnC7pMPQKogIA>

Amid the national teacher shortage, I set out to find out whether or not McLean High School is experiencing staffing shortages. Reaching out to teachers that have left over the last five years and hearing their reasons for changing professions, I produced a professional documentary detailing why teachers are leaving and how to help them stay. I experimented with virtual interviews, short voiceovers to introduce interviewees, and infographics to create a poignant finished product.

## **Community Shines at Celebrate McLean**

[https://youtu.be/pv51e4ynIDw?si=MXtm\\_LqOnC7cSt5x](https://youtu.be/pv51e4ynIDw?si=MXtm_LqOnC7cSt5x)

Every October, students discover what the community looks like at McLean High School through club showcases, cornhole, and a paint out. I covered this McLean staple. I had to find balance and prioritize who to interview and what activities to cover when there were so many activities happening at once. When I found my interview subjects, I still had to balance audio quality and focus on the interviewee amid live music, a bounce house, and students' laughter.

## **SHH Hosts Hispanic Heritage Month**

[https://youtu.be/rnwViluwWXc?si=Lua\\_KnZFOKzlyUhq](https://youtu.be/rnwViluwWXc?si=Lua_KnZFOKzlyUhq)

When I covered the McLean Spanish Honor Society's first celebration for Hispanic Heritage Month, I spotlighted a part of the McLean student body that doesn't often get noticed. I made sure not only to film performances but also the audience, thus highlighting how the event brought the Latinx community together. When choosing interviewees, I knew I needed to capture the underlying need for the event, and so I interviewed the event planner Diana Rojas Hernandez, who called attention to the stereotypes and challenges of growing up Latinx in the U.S. while holding on to national pride.

## **TheatreMcLean Debuts Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play**

<https://youtu.be/hwh9PuA6pKQ?si=uiVc1MXRjOXc57-k>

Covering "Mr. Burns" was unlike any previous theater production because the stage was flipped, with the audience sitting on the stage and the performers in the seats. This caused new challenges with lighting and camera angles while also making it easier to film actors close up. I placed special emphasis on the set and the audience's reaction to the interactive Simpsons-based props to demonstrate how this performance fully immersed the audience in the show and—as a result—brought the greater McLean community closer to the theater department.

## **TheatreMcLean Holds the Key to our Hearts**

<https://youtu.be/IZIL8BSM-8s?si=RLEzEVdc5l4fd9tP>

TheatreMcLean debuted the Broadway favorite, *Anastasia*. I had to film interviews and incorporate B-roll that would provide a new lens to the popular theater show. I secured close-up, high-quality shots of the musical singles and weaved in the show with puns to create an engaging news package.