

NSPA Broadcast Journalist of the Year Portfolio

Caroline Krywonos

Oviedo High School

Gerrymandering Commentary

With the upcoming midterm election, questions are often raised about what gerrymandering is and its effect on local elections. I explain the causes and effects of it in both the state of Florida, and in the state of New York.

https://youtu.be/mVdgkg_6yjl?feature=shared

The Gift that Keeps on Polluting

During the holiday season, wrapping paper is one of the biggest pollutants in landfills around the world. I take a stance on how it impacts the environment, and some alternatives.

https://youtu.be/Bnxq5S_reyk?feature=shared

Florida Legislation Impacts Student Journalism

In March of 2024, Governor Ron DeSantis signed a bill restricting social media for 14 year olds and under in the state of Florida. I explain the impact this has on the future of student journalism in the state.

<https://youtu.be/xTwPNsLprB4?si=tBG2bPvJ3rYGFxaz>

Candlelight - Mobile Journalist Package

Each year, Disney selects certain choirs to partake in the Candlelight Processional. This package takes a look at how the Oviedo High School choir prepares and the meaning of its selection.

https://youtube.com/shorts/o5Wg8JK1_Uk?feature=shared

Florida Law Damages Youth

In March of 2022, Governor Ron DeSantis signed into law House Bill 1557, referred to as the Don't Say Gay Bill. I explain what this means for parental rights in the state of Florida.

<https://youtu.be/jh-Yh9paDk4?si=jIejp3VgSozIwQ23>

Personal Statement

My name is Caroline Krywonos. I'm 18 years old from Oviedo Florida. My journalism journey started my freshman year of high school when I signed up for TV Production out of curiosity, as I was doing school remotely. As I journeyed around the house learning different shot types by videoing my mom working, or putting together my very first profile package, the projects were easily the highlight of my day. However, one project my teacher assigned really stuck with me and truly sparked my passion. Broadcast commentary. The premise was relatively simple - pick a topic and create a 1-1:30 minute highlighting any topic and your stance on that topic. After putting together a piece about body shaming and its effects, I found myself wanting more. I wanted to keep reporting and informing people of topics I thought were important. So the following year when course selections came around, I happily put our schools broadcast WROR-TV on the top of my class list.

Sophomore year started as a transition back into the normality of in-person school. In WROR-TV, I started the year by trying a variety of projects again like I had in my first year, but my heart was drawn back to commentaries. In December, as our program began putting together a themed show for the holiday season, my advisor came to me personally and asked if I would make a commentary about something holiday related. Here, I put together a segment on the effects of holiday wrapping paper on the environment. I loved being able to inform people, while also still being able to share an opinion of my own.

In 2022, I had the opportunity to attend the Student Television Network (STN) national convention for the first time. Here, I worked with a team of about 14 of my fellow students to create an 8 minute broadcast in 8 hours. The challenge implements deadlines in a fun and competitive way, to introduce the real world practice for students to get used to. As I've continued throughout the years, STNs challenges have helped me prepare for the real deadlines I've had outside of the convention. In 2022, our Crazy 8 Broadcast placed 3rd, and our school broadcast earned a Broadcast Excellence award. I felt such pride, knowing that my work was helping towards making our program stronger. Since my initial year at STN, I have attended the convention 2 additional times, proudly representing WROR-TV.

Towards the beginning of every school year, our advisor opens up applications for leadership positions in the classroom. My junior year, I felt confident enough to run for our classes News Producer. As News Producer, I oversaw my classmates projects to help prepare for our broadcasts, and worked closely with our Executive Producer to help produce our monthly broadcasts, a school-wide "Lip Dub" video, and our schools senior video. I learned so much under her leadership, and felt my confidence growing. My senior year, I applied and was accepted to be WROR-TV's Executive Producer.

Throughout my time as a leader, whether it's in TV Production, my schools SGA, or in Scouts BSA, I've learned to lead with servant leadership - the concept that as a leader, you are not above who you are leading, instead you must work with them equally. This especially applies to working with your peers who are the same age as you, as you can not earn respect if you talk down to people you regard as your friends. By leading with servant leadership, being Executive Producer didn't feel like a chore. I was able to lead and feel pride seeing my fellow classmates grow as both people and journalists.

My time as a broadcast journalist in WROR-TV has sparked a passion that I plan to continue into a career. I am attending the University of Central Florida to major in Media Production and am excited to see where journalism takes me in life.