

Grace Guo
NSPA Multimedia Portfolio
HiLite News

I became interested in design and journalism after applying to be a yearbook editor in middle school. There, I got my first taste of collaboration for a shared project, whether it was design, stories, or taking photos. In high school, these experiences inspired me to take the prerequisite required to apply for HiLite News. I have served on HiLite News, the newsmagazine and news site of Carmel High School in Carmel, IN, for three years. I have worked as a graphics artist, photographer, graphics editor, and editor in chief on HiLite's staff. I have also served as a blog writer and Reviews Editor for Carmel High School's Quill and Scroll chapter. In this editor position, I facilitate the cycle of reviews by organizing assignments monthly and spearheading the editing process and online posting.

I became a graphics artist and photographer to go beyond my initial interest in visual journalism by learning technical skills such as how to work with Adobe Suite, operate a camera, or write in Associated Press style—my junior year marked a sharp transition for the HiLite staff as we became a fully online news site. As a graphics editor, I saw the transition as an opportunity rather than a detriment. In my position, I introduced interactive and unique infographic spread design that could only be taken advantage of online as I continued gaining experience in Adobe.

As one of HiLite's co-editors in Chief my senior year, I found the need to lead by example by stepping out of my comfort zone. While I have always enjoyed sharing opinions and experiences through writing columns and blogs for HiLite, I had not written full-length stories since eighth grade. I began reporting on the school administration each month. This beat report assignment allowed me to hone my journalistic writing skills and provide valuable information directly from the principal to the five thousand students at our school. I decided to continue exploring outside my comfort zone by writing long-form stories and creating story packages, both independently and with my team of editors.

Additionally, as a senior, I acquired my first personal camera. By learning more about manual settings, Adobe software, and camera operation from a mentor at my internship, my photography skills developed in a tech capacity and I began putting together more photo galleries to tell journalistic stories for HiLite.

These experiences have culminated in a full understanding of journalism that I plan to take with me as I graduate. I have used my positions and experiences on HiLite staff to benefit people beyond myself, whether they're fellow staff members or readers. While many discount journalism as a dying industry or an avenue for fake news, I see opportunities to push back on those stereotypes through legitimate passion and drive for the art. Please see my work below.

- [Postcards from MUSE: Adventures of a Not-so-Adventurous National Park Visitor](#): This is a travel blog/review of Grand Teton, Yellowstone and Glacier National Park.
- [LiteBox Special Feature: Holiday Spectacular, "A Light in the Dark"](#): This is a photo gallery of "Holiday Spectacular," the Carmel Choirs' annual December show.
- [Pageant titleholder, model, teacher, postdoctoral fellow reflect on Black is Beautiful movement, beauty standards, culture](#): This story marked the one-year anniversary of the death of Kwame

Brathwaite, the founder of the Black is Beautiful Movement. African American students in beauty industries (modeling and pageantry), the Carmel High School AP African American Studies teacher and a postdoctoral fellow at Indiana University were interviewed. Guo created the entire story package.

- [Review: “One Day” broke me for the second time, but this time it hurt worse \[MUSE\]](#): This is a show review on the Netflix adaptation of the novel *One Day*.
- [Student photographers, professional photographer reflect on impact of creative hobby, business management](#): Guo co-wrote this story on student photographers.