

Addie Moore Writing Portfolio

Personal Statement:

Being much younger than my siblings, I always struggled to feel heard amongst all of the chaos. Whether it was arguing over who's turn it was to sit in the passenger seat or building a mansion in Minecraft just praying my brother wouldn't blow it up when it was his turn to play, I always felt silenced.

So when I decided to follow my older sister into high school journalism, I was sure I wouldn't last more than a semester because of my hesitation to talk to new people. But, when my editor bragged to my sister about the voice in my first review or when my infamously nit-picky adviser commented "this is gold" on my first sports story, I finally felt heard.

Before Harbinger, I wouldn't dare to walk down the chemistry hallway, let alone spend over three hours sitting in the chemistry teacher's chair interviewing him during his class.

I struggled talking to adults, even though I now have to do multiple recordings of an interview because Otter only transcribes the first 30 minutes of the conversation.

Through finding my voice and stepping out of my comfort zone, I was able to find comfort in writing. Now through writing about other people's stories, I am able to help them feel heard as well.

Harbinger has taught me that each of the 1,641 students within our Columbia Blue halls have their own unique story to tell. Whether it's a recreational basketball team who focus more on their fashion than the game or the School Resource Officer who greets students when they enter the building, everyone deserves a chance to be heard.

Example 1: [Building Chemistry](#)

Through hours of after-school interviews and sneaking into chemistry teacher Steven Appier's room for observation during lunch, I learned the importance of becoming friends with the interviewee. Although we sometimes got off-topic throughout the interviewing process, he was comfortable enough with me to share some of the harder moments from his teaching career.

Example 2: [Discriminatory Education](#)

As a junior, I had no idea what the difference between early decision and early action was. Throughout the process of researching and writing this editorial, I learned the importance of in-depth research. I spent the first half of our two-week cycle researching the topic and talking to family friends who work in college admissions. Because of the research, I was able to form a structured story with well-informed thoughts on a topic I didn't know existed two weeks prior.

Example 3: [This Wolf Wrote a Book](#)

Officer Wolf is one of the most respected DARE officers in our school district. Through writing this story, I was able to connect with him and learn more about the importance of humanizing authority figures. This story also required a lot of interviews because so many students had great things to say about Officer Wolf.

Example 4: [Common MisKANceptions](#)

This story is the most lighthearted column I've written. Even though it doesn't feature serious topics like other stories I've written, it taught me the importance of adding voice to a story. This variety is valuable because it brings joy and a sense of camaraderie in a section that can sometimes be controversial.

Example 5: [Lili Vottero](#)

This story gave me a whole new perspective on one of my close friends. The interviews for this story included individual interviews, along with eating dinner with the Vottero family. Although I usually don't like doing group interviews, seeing how the family interacted with each other and added on to each other's stories was a valuable part of this story.