

Personal Statement:

The interest to write, to dive deeper into others' stories, to know more than what comes to the eyes at first glance, the need to tell a story and spread that information to the world and those searching for answers. Four years ago, with hopes of writing news stories and politics, I took an interest in writing stories only, recording interviews, and typing behind a screen. At the time it felt underwhelming, like there was a greater purpose I had yet to find in the world of journalism. I had always had thoughts of broadcasting and the art of video, and it wasn't until last year's online editor-in-chief took me under his wing and completely opened a world of stories and creativity to me.

Having little to no experience in filming and videography, there was a lot for me to learn. Scared to mess up and fail, I came up with the idea of starting small to achieve larger goals. I started by filming beside my editor and chief, filming various content from sports action, to musicals, to one-on-one interviews. I gathered my bearings and took in every experience till I found my strengths.

Feeling confident in my ability to film I felt unstoppable, producing great shots and then reviewing and uploading them, and boom - a magic video would appear on the website, although it wasn't magic but something very similar, the power of editing. I took one look at the Premier Pro dashboard and wanted to give up, buttons and symbols of every kind, hundreds of transitions and effects staring at me in my face. I wanted to give up, go back to the safety of screenwriting stories, and leave all of my video knowledge behind, but instead, the encouragement of my editor-in-chief pushed me to create my first video alongside him. The video itself, limited in transitions and depth and by all means poor, was a monumental step in my digital career.

Now I sit in the role as the Editor-in-Chief of the Dispatch's online program. It has been nothing but an unpaved road on a mega highway for me to get here but with each step the bumps settle, the road becomes flat and the car moves faster. I am no car, but the person I am today is someone who has grown immensely since the first day I signed up for a newspaper intro class.

This year as a junior hasn't been the easiest one by a landslide. Balancing 7 AP classes, leadership roles around the campus, various clubs, varsity sports, and jobs, while being the Editor-in-Chief has come with challenges, a lot of them. But in each pit, I fall into and each bump I trip over, I remember my past guidance and look at the road behind me to remind myself of where I've come from and where I have to go.

My contributions to this program extend to content and leadership. I help to manage daily social media posts accompanied with captions, create hype sports videos, manage the website input, edit online stories, create/edit podcasts, film interview-style videos, and mentor the incoming students alongside me to learn each of these skills. The one thing all of the contributions have in common is the need to share a story and the importance of the truth lining that story with unbiased judgment. As student journalists the fundamental mindset of the truth is crucial to telling an adequate story.

Next year marks my final year in high school and the journalism program. The most crucial thing I have learned from these years is the fact that everyone has a story worth willing to share, the person to your right is just as evoking as the one to your left, the importance is in asking the right questions to lead you to the best answer. It's not just about telling the story, it's how you approach asking the right questions to lead you to the best way of sharing that story.

ENTRIES

1. **RALLY DAY:** <https://thedispatchonline.net/22821/multimedia/rally-day-multimedia-1/>

Rally day follows the story of the constant struggles education in our schools has been put through with the strain of each election cycle. PTA *Raise your hands Texas* joined hands of teachers, students and parents to voice their concerns of the school board. Concerns regarding recapture, ending school vouchers and teacher funding.

2. **BOWIE'S BSA**

CLUB:<https://thedispatchonline.net/22385/multimedia/video/bowies-bsa-club-shares-about-their-toy-drive-and-future-plans/>

The revival chapter of BSA (Black Student Alliance) kicks off by introducing current presidents and leadership while walking us through their first ever drive. The club was introduced in hopes for more of the black community attending Bowie to find a place to engage with one another and overall find a good community of people.

3. **BOWIE HOMECOMING COURT**

2025:<https://thedispatchonline.net/21629/multimedia/photo-essay/homecoming-court-at-game-and-pep-rally/>

In the time of celebrations Bowie's Student Council hosts one of its most beloved traditions in announcing the fall Homecoming court and Winners. The celebration takes place on the football field and is full of excitement and positive energy. This year Bowie's senior homecoming king and queen were Clayton Migel and Kate Bookidis.

4. **RECAPTURE:**

<https://thedispatchonline.net/21430/multimedia/video/recapture-and-its-effects-on-schools/>

Recapture was filmed at the Austin capital where journalism students were invited to listen to politicians, trustees and those well educated on the topic, speak about their opinions with the recapture system. Recapture on its own is a Robin Hood act where a school system is divided into two categories. In short the wealthier districts give large portions of their tax paying dollars to poor districts.

5. **MAMMA MIA:**<https://thedispatchonline.net/22447/multimedia/video/mamma-mia/>

Students share big smiles full of excitement awaiting the opening day of their spring show Mamma Mia. Lead roles and ensemble talk about their role in the cast this year and what preparation has looked like compared to past years. Students express as before every show there are nerves but that is one of the crucial parts of performing.