

dominic so

- academic/student life editor (10th grade)
- copy editor (11th grade)

leadership philosophy

When teaching journalism, I love to use specific examples. During my presentations at Norcal and Nashville, I've found that hypothetical examples fail to resonate with an audience. Hence, I've strived to have examples always reference someone in class.

For example, the question "Do you work at the In-N-Out near here?" was not only a joke directed at a senior who rants about serving annoying customers at In-N-Out but also a way to teach closed-ended questions. Another time, I capitalized on a student's hatred of mayo to teach bad lead-ins. I've even compared a student to Pinkie Pie to tell students to listen in interviews. Through these specific examples, students laugh, learn about each other and wake up from mid-class naps.

If I can't reference a student, I choose myself. For my examples, I always like to ridicule myself. I told students of my first interview where I dealt with a glaring sun, a stubborn bee and a social media editor constantly watching me. I hope that by making fun of myself students realize that I was an amateur too and approach their interviews and writing with confidence knowing that "it can't go as bad as Dominic's."

proud leadership moment

When I presented "Good, Bad, Ugly: A Guide to Interviewing" for Norcal Media Day, I talked so fast that I finished 15 minutes early. To fill time, I answered interview questions, shared traumatic journalism stories and told facts about myself. Within eight minutes, I expressed my horrifying fear of the Simpsons and then outlined strategies to interview Bart Simpson. When time ran out, seven students and one journalism adviser said that my presentation was the best they'd seen all day. One person said that she'd "listen to me for hours." That experience boosted my confidence as an interviewer and speaker.

SFHS - Poverello



advisor statement

Dominic So is the best student interviewer and class presenter I have ever seen. He truly embodies the idea that everyone has a story worth telling if you're just willing to take the time to ask questions and listen. Regardless of whether it's for a quick one-question response or a long-form, the amount of respect and care that he approaches every student with is unmatched and something every adviser strives to have their staff emulate. He takes even more care to generously share these skills with our journalism program: role-playing, counseling, brainstorming, and directly instructing other staffers regularly. Truly incredible.