

Broadcast Journalist of the Year: Sean Nguyen
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THUD! Between the camera shaking and the lack of natural light outside, I knew this would be another ten-hour editing session of clip structuring and sound mixing. The breaks squealed as the school bus came to a halt, and a student climbed on while rubbing his eyes from exhaustion, unaware that the bus driver had been awake since four in the morning. Although she felt drained from working two jobs, she consistently greeted everyone, as if each passenger were considered part of her family. Shadowing Mrs. Rosa was one segment I created for “Humans of TJ,” a series of video features showcasing unrecognized lives in my high school’s community.

Wonderment filled me when I first discovered a camcorder in a storage closet and began shooting 2K videos of random skits. I took these skills for granted, assuming it was a clever means to capture moments of my own family, never realizing the power video would have to influence others’ perceptions. What began as a hobby evolved into an outlet for me to uplift others by recording their experiences. I am a storyteller by heart, and through sharing these accounts, I can spur those around me to develop a sense of empathy and compassion. My investment in others’ narratives empowers me to continue documenting non-mainstream themes.

As the Broadcast Executive Producer during a COVID-era, I grew the team from fifteen videographers to thirty-five. While other clubs were unable to adapt to a virtual environment, I was able to mentor aspiring videographers in techniques from storyboarding to color correcting. It was my role to guarantee journalistic integrity and high standards in each video that was broadcasted by the weekly morning announcements.

Especially since the majority of my team this year were novices without prior filming experiences, I implored interviews to be conducted in-person despite our high school being online. This afforded my staff members exposure to using a DSLR, where I would be actively present at each interview in correcting their poor habits like lighting or framing. I never missed an interview or anchoring outing this year, despite some weeks needing to drive to six separate locations. I also began utilizing new equipment like drones, green screens, and gimbals that elevated each video’s quality. Whereas past years’ videos were monotonous, I sought to incorporate more effects that engage audiences without diluting the reporting. My diligence toward excellence has allowed the TJTV News team to earn a record [14 Best of SNO awards](#), where only 10% of the 100 to 200 submitted entries every day are selected for publication.

Through leaving an imprint on my community brimming with unsung heroes and overlooked issues, I have learned that Broadcast is a creative and not linear endeavor.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EVf_kQv8mwI&t=154s

Cults of TJ

Since some extracurriculars appear cliquy at my high school, I introduced the concept of “cults” to see if club members would agree with this label. We interviewed four club leaders including Model United Nations, Latin, Crew, and Marching Band, and accumulated b-roll of each club’s contention.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rTYFRPjC5jM&t=19s>

TJ’s Lecture Hall Receives a New Look

Despite the limitations of virtual school, ten student artists have found new means to improve the look of TJ—by outfitting the bland walls of the lecture hall with an art mural. I filmed, edited, and storyboarded this news story alongside three novices who possessed no prior Broadcast experience. I walked them through step-by-step each stage of Broadcast, giving each a strong foundation before producing videos independently.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ORc0I3-ZFU>

TJ’s Queen and her Gambit

With a United States Chess Federation (USCF) ranking of 1782, sophomore Mantra Iyer is one of the top chess players at my high school. This package concentrated on her lifelong chess career, accolades, and difficulties that have transformed her identity. During breaks between our multiple filming outings, I even got to play Mantra before getting defeated by her higher skill level.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7KKhObtcTXE>

Spaced Scrimmage and Sanitized Sticks

After two months of socially distant practices, scrimmages, and games, the field hockey team has managed to strike a balance between player safety and engagement. We interviewed freshman varsity player Avery Park, Avery’s mother Sarah Park, and senior captain Hailey Nguyen on what the season has looked like with the addition of COVID regulations. This feature holds a special place in my heart, as I filmed this feature in freezing weather amidst February and March and could not feel my fingers pressed against the DSLR at the end of each outing.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KkBZSZT36ME&t=4s>

Sport of the Arts: A Look from the Rookies

Originally set to take place in the fall, complications within the marching band program have converted what would have been a full season into a shortened version lasting only a few weeks. The newest members of the marching band reflect on their initial motivations to join, and what marching band means to them. I covered the entire marching band season and filmed the progression of their practices including their culminating performance.