

We Write.....

# TO PROVOKE, TO COMPEL, TO ENTERTAIN.

- 1) Recognize Universal Experiences - catalogue & report; breakdown in detail; see your world!
- 2) Copy Can't Only be Created in Front of a Keyboard - must attend events & Get out; interview, and interview some more; no "butt" journalism; no "hit & run" interview.
- 3) Report, and Report Some More -
  - \*Describe
  - \*Report
  - \*Quote
  - \*NEVER Speculate
- 4) Give Them a Piece of the Pie! Can't write about every play of the action, but a specific event or "slice". A two minute magic moment! Following is a pie without a focused angle:

In her 18th year at Lafayette High School, Mrs. Nancy Smith hopes to be a positive influence on her students in Writing and Reporting. She is always looking for talented students to join the publications staffs.

Before LHS, she was a teacher at Belleville West for seven years.

Smith doesn't have much time for hobbies. She prepares for and grades work from her classes and advises the Image, Legend, lhsimage.com and DVD Yearbook. When she's not working on school-related projects, Mrs. Smith is very busy with her 14-year-old son, Jordan, her 10-year-old twins, Austin and Blake and her two-year-old Chocolate Lab named Cocoa.

She said, "Being home all summer with all my boys really made me appreciate coming to work each day!"

A major accomplishment of hers this summer has been maintaining her sanity while keeping up her busy home life and summer work schedule.

She travels over the summer to various newspaper/yearbook workshops and teaches a grad class at K-State. When she is home, she spends most of her time in the car driving her sons to their various practices, games and social events.

She also spend a lot of time getting her new classroom ready. "After 17 years in one room, it took a major effort to sort out and move everything."

She said she works hard favorite things to do is work to make her classroom a great place to work and learn. She collects magnets, which she keeps displayed near her desk. She also keeps scented candles, plants and lots of family photos close to her to relieve stress. In addition, she keeps her classroom decorated with posters and other knickknacks.

"I spend so much time at school, that I like the room to be a fun, comfortable place," she explained.

She has been married for 23 years to a Fenton Fire Protection District firefighter. In 10 years she looks forward to a much quieter house with all her boys living on their own somewhere else. Smith said the most exciting travel she does is to and from school, but she does take students to a national journalism conference each fall. This year that conference will be in Kansas City. She also gets to attend the spring conference each year as she is the Journalism Education Association's National Write-off Co-Chair for the spring conferences. This year that will take her to Anaheim in April, but she said she doesn't get much free time.

"Running the contest involved working in a little room with no windows from Wednesday through Saturday. I didn't read the fine print when I signed up for that job!" she said.

Now, here it is with a slice of the pie:

In 24 years, a teacher can accumulate a lot of stuff. Nancy Smith discovered just how much she collected when she moved from Room 213 to 137A. The hard part was not moving all of it, but deciding what to keep and what to pitch.

Some items were easy to get rid of. Smith said she isn't exactly a hoarder, but said she was a bit of a "pack rat." She got rid of decorations that were falling apart and lots of files from classes she no longer teaches. She had no problem filling trash can after trash can with ancient yearbook photos and CDs with old newspaper files.

The hard part was getting rid of things that had strong memories attached to them.

"It sounds stupid, but I can remember when I got different posters or other room decorations and it was sad to part with some of it," she said. "I have had some of these posters longer than I have had my children," she said.

The odd thing is her new room is larger and has a lot of storage, but she still had to purge a bit. She said she wanted to start fresh and not clutter things up too much.

"Some of my colleagues used to tease me and say my room looked like the playground of an insane kid because of all the stuff on the walls and hanging from the ceiling," she said.

In her new classroom, Smith said she is going for a more clean, sophisticated look.

"We'll see how long that lasts," she laughed.

Your turn! Find someone - write a short, 250 - 350 word profile about a Sion student. You must also turn this in with a picture on your Google Doc.