

# IDEAS

## FOR COVERAGE

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### 50 News & Feature Ideas for High School Newspapers

- 1) What were the first few days of school like for an entering freshman or sophomore?
- 2) What progress is the student government making in living up to its campaign promises?
- 3) What kinds of disciplinary cases are most common in your school, and how are they dealt with by the administration?
- 4) Why do students work in school offices? What difference would it make to the operation of the school if there were no student help?
- 5) How are student teachers adjusting to being on the other side of the desk? What do they see or realize now that they never saw when they were students?
- 6) Collect the comments that students and teachers have on a controversial book, movie or television program and weave them into an article.
- 7) What do students think of their homework assignments?
- 8) Is there a section of the school building unknown to most students that would make an interesting story?
- 9) How helpful have students found private SAT preparation courses?
- 10) Are various school groups, such as cheerleaders and twirlers, free of favoritism or unfair selectivity when choosing new members?
- 11) What can elderly residents of your school's area tell you about the way the neighborhood has changed through the years?
- 12) Do the students, teachers and administrators think the school paper is doing a good job of serving its readers?
- 13) Interview teachers who have recently returned from jury duty.
- 14) Which substitute teachers are the most successful with students, and why?
- 15) How have new students gone about making friends in school?
- 16) How confidential are students' records? To whom, besides the student, are they open?
- 17) Why do students find it important to spend time by themselves?
- 18) Which teachers have been in your school the longest, and what are the greatest changes they have seen there, for better or for worse?
- 19) Interview students who have failed a subject and are taking it again. Why did they fail and whom do they blame for it? What are the major reasons teachers give for failing students?
- 20) Compare the lunches served in your school with those served in other schools, with respect to taste, cost, quality and attractiveness.
- 21) Compare the costs in your school of senior dues, yearbooks, school rings and graduation fees with what students in other schools pay.
- 22) On parents' visiting day, interview parents and teachers. Are the visits beneficial? Which subject's teachers saw the most parents?
- 23) Have a reporter spend a day with the principal, college counselor or a similar non-classroom faculty member.
- 24) How much money is allotted to various school activities? How much do the school's various money-making activities earn? Who decides the budgets allotted for each activity? Attend a budget meeting.
- 25) Preview the school yearbook.
- 26) What are students making these days in the school's shops?
- 27) For the last newspaper of the school year, ask graduating seniors to express their thoughts about the school they are about to leave.
- 28) What can the guidance counselors tell you about the kinds of problems students have been coming to them with lately? How do they help students deal with their problems? How are today's most common problems different from those of the past?
- 29) What are the summer plans of students and teachers?
- 30) Interview students who are recent immigrants to the United States.
- 31) How prevalent is the use of study guides such as Cliff's Notes and Monarch Notes among students? What is their major reason for buying them? Do teachers think they are useful?
- 32) What tutorial help is available to students in school? What kinds of tutorial help are students paying for outside of school?
- 33) Interview students and teachers who have quit smoking. How did they do it? How painful was the process? How long have they been without a cigarette?
- 34) Recognize Women's History Month (March), Black History Month (February) or any other nationally designated month, with a timely, localized story. It could deal with plans in your school or community to celebrate the month, or with the feelings, beliefs and attitudes of people in your school that relate to the topic.
- 35) What satisfaction do students get from their after-school or weekend jobs?
- 36) Sit in on a class of a teacher whose lessons are lively and interesting. (Be sure the teacher is aware you are there to do a story.)
- 37) What do students and teachers think of the textbooks they use?
- 38) Cover a class reunion.
- 39) Which teachers in your school failed subjects when they were students?
- 40) Ask former newspaper staff members to write first-person pieces about what it's like to be in college.
- 41) How do students handle their bad moods?
- 42) What volunteer opportunities exist for students who want to work with the elderly? With very young children? In hospitals?
- 43) Along with an article or review about the school play, run a separate article (sidebar) profiling a cast member who hopes to become a professional performer.
- 44) How do students feel about having their parents teach in the school they attend? How do their parents feel?
- 45) What special roles do grandparents play in the lives of students?
- 46) What do students think about the adage "These are the best years of your life"?
- 47) What are former school sports stars doing now? Go back 5, 10, 20 or more years.
- 48) What do your school's athletes, actors and musicians do to get psyched before a game or performance?
- 49) What kinds of outside jobs do teachers have?
- 50) Do a story on students who are excellent cooks. Visit some at home and describe them at their cooking. Include a few recipes with the story.

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