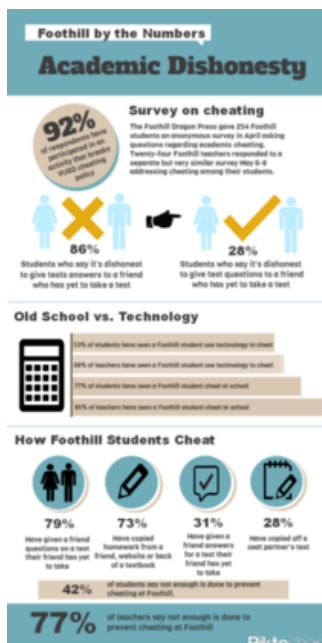


Cheating runs rampant at Foothill



This is an infographic another staff member and I created to display information collected in a survey regarding academic cheating at our high school.

Shrinking Fundraisers?



This infographic was created to help illustrate the facts of a



Veronica Canela Lopez

Editor-in-Chief
The Foothill Dragon Press

v.canela.lopez@gmail.com

My Company: <http://foothilldragonpress.org/>
Journoportfolio: <https://vcanelalopez.journoportfolio.com/>

Education

Foothill Technology High School

Ventura, CA, United States

Aug

Community

- Speech and Debate team (+3 years, now Vice President)
- National Art Honor Society (+3 years, Co-President beginning next year)
- CSF (+1 year)
- Political Action and Awareness Club (+2 years)
- Junior member of the Ventura County Juvenile Delinquency and Prevention Committee (1 year)
- Quill and Scroll Honors Society (+2 years)
- Volunteer at Douglas Penfield School for the disabled (+3 years)

Initiative Taken

Introduction of the Infographic

When I was browsing through rival student news sites in search of new ideas for our own site, I noticed a new trend across most of our competitions front pages; infographics. Informational graphics were a new commodity to student news websites and were quickly gaining popularity, so I took it upon myself to learn how to create said graphics. I found a free program and signed the Dragon Press up for it and trained myself in the art of Graphic design. After learning these new skills, I waited for the opportunity to use them and was finally given the chance to when a cheating scandal erupted amongst the student body. I quickly made one and my adviser was so impressed that she told me to help train others in how to create these graphics. The following year, I even received a first place award for an infographic I created. This new way of displaying information definitely gave the publication a new edge in competitions.

Breaking News: Evan Askar wins race for ASB president

After a long night of writing the editorial regarding the ASB election and its candidates (see Best Work of 2014), I had to report the results of the election. My journalism partner and I were the only reporters on campus when the results were announced and it was up to us to break the news before Facebook and other forms of social media beat us to the punch. We collected interviews with the losers as well as the winners of the election and got the story up in under two hours.

Character Trait

My character trait which I am most proud of is my courage. Journalists must have courage when pursuing the truth, because there will always be those who will try to obscure the truth at all costs. Whether it was standing up for something I believe in or applying to be Editor-in-Chief amid steep competition, I always acted with courage and integrity.

scandal regarding cutbacks in our Associated Student Body's (Student Government) budget. I was awarded first place in Graphic Design at the Columbia Scholastic Press Association Gold Circle Awards for it.

When I applied to be Editor-in-Chief, I was sure the position would be given to someone else and feared that if I applied, I would fail and be humiliated. But because I firmly believed that I would be the better choice for the position, I applied anyways, not for me, but for the publication. I had a clear vision for the future of it and would do whatever it took to take it to the next level. As Editor-in-Chief, one must have the courage to stand up and lead when things are uncertain, and in times of difficulty.

My time of difficulty came much sooner than I had hoped. A day before I was to take over officially as EIC, tragedy struck. A former teacher had been killed while jogging that morning by a reckless driver under the influence of Xanax and it was up to the Dragon Press to cover it, in spite of or shock and grief. I quickly collected myself after I heard the news and messaged my Journalism adviser. 6 hours later, we had a full coverage of the accident and a heartfelt storify to go with it. Courage is what was needed when covering such an event, and everyone who covered the story, myself included, exhibited it that day.

An important publication such as the Dragon Press needs a strong leader to guide it into the future and continue to help it grow, and as that leader, I must exude this courage in order for us to be successful. I speak my mind, and I never hold back, which is crucial for journalists, especially in this day and age of "Talking Heads" on polarized television stations.

Best Work of 2014

Editorial: When one publication is threatened, we all are

A school publication in Pennsylvania was facing serious consequences from their school board for exercising their First Amendment right to a free press. Our publication felt that it was our moral obligation to stand up in solidarity with this publication, because as journalists, we must protect our fellow reporters. As newly appointed Editor-in-Chief, it was my job to write an unsigned editorial on the matter in a timely fashion. Even though I did not receive direct credit for it, it being an unsigned editorial, it is still the piece of writing I am most proud of. Standing up for freedom of speech is more important than any reward I will ever receive.

Editorial: Dragon Press endorses candidates for ASB president and vice president

The day before student body elections, I was struck with the idea to write an endorsement for president and vice president. I was sick and tired of hearing people forming their opinions based on how popular the candidate was rather than how effective their plan for the coming year was. So, that night, I stayed up writing the editorial, even though I knew their was a strong possibility that the article would not run. That morning, my hard work paid off and the story went up. Though the editorial may not have swayed the election, it caught the attention of the Student Government Adviser and inspired her to now hold a state of the Union for the coming year's president and an actual debate for next year's candidates.

Former Foothill teacher Chris Prewitt struck fatally by car

This event was extremely hard to cover and a tragic blow to the entire community. Though I didn't preform any news coverage of the event, I did organize the team who did and created a Storify to add to the story. I stayed up into the wee hours of the night formatting and perfecting the story before it could be released, along with my adviser and new News Editor. This was not just my best work, it was that entire team's best work.

Skills

AP Style (Rockstar)



1-2 Years Experience, (Currently in use)

As Co-Assistant Editor-in-Chief, I was required to learn Associated Press Style in order to edit articles in the correct fashion. I spend an average of 11 hours a week editing stories for the Dragon Press website and have even mentored new Editors and staff members on the proper use of AP Style.

Editorial Writing (Rockstar)



1-2 Years Experience, (Currently in use)

I began as a staff writer for the opinions section when I first joined the Dragon Press and wrote various stand alone opinion pieces before delving into the realm of Editorial writing. I first began writing editorials during the Tri County Journalism Education Association convention, where I had to compete in the Editorial writing category. I ended up winning first place and after that found a passion for it. I've received much recognition for the unsigned editorials I've written (see Best Work of 2014).

Wordpress Formatting



(Rockstar)

1-2 Years Experience, (Currently in use)

As Editor-in-Chief, it is my job to format all articles that are posted onto the site and to do so, these articles must have photos, video and other forms of multimedia added to them through Wordpress. I spend countless hours a week perfecting each article for publishing and even have an extra period of journalism to do so.

Breaking News Coverage



(Advanced)

<1 Years Experience, (Currently in use)

I must be a jack-of-all-trades in order to be Editor-in-Chief and because of this, I have recently had to learn how to cover breaking news events. My skills of time management and effectiveness in terms of good coverage are developing quickly and have already improved tremendously throughout this year.

Graphic Design (Advanced)



1-2 Years Experience, (Currently in use)

I taught myself how to use Piktochart, the program, in order to make graphic designs for the publication and have been successful in teaching others how to use it. I even received first place from the CSPA for one of my infographics. I am also enrolled in AP Art and have been for 2 years, and know my way around programs such as Adobe Photoshop.