



## Sean Michael Anthony

OPINION SECTION

**Opinion Writer**  
*Foothill Dragon Press*

[sean.anthony369@gmail.com](mailto:sean.anthony369@gmail.com)

Online Newspaper: <http://www.foothilldragonpress.org/>  
JournPortfolio: <https://seananthony369.journportfolio.com/>



## Character Trait

A character trait which I have strongly developed this year by working as an opinion write for the Dragon Press is my personal courage. If you had told me my freshman year if I ever thought I would be writing for the school newspaper, let alone publishing my personal opinions, I would have thought you were crazy.

I've never been super outgoing, and tend to share my thoughts, feelings and opinions only with those I'm close to and trust.

Going into the staff this year, I viewed it as a way to break the mold, a way to put myself out there and share who I am and how I see the world. It's been a great experience, and it's taken a great amount courage.

My first few articles were really difficult: I was spending immense amounts of time editing, revising, reviewing, drafting, perfecting and worrying about my writing because not only is it like sharing your quality of writing with the public, it is sharing your opinions, your feelings, your self on a public platform, something I was not used to at all. However with time, as I have gained more experience writing, confidence in myself, and courage to share, I now often don't think twice about publishing my work. Not only do my peers read and often compliment my work, but so do teachers, and it has been a terrifying, yet growing experience.

Now I have more courage to be myself and share my perspective not only in writing, but in my daily life.

## Education

### Foothill Technology High School

Ventura, CA, United States

Aug 2011 - Present

## Best Work of 2013-2014

### [Man made: a culture of misconstrued masculinity](#)

I've felt that this article has been one of my strongest pieces of writing throughout the school year. I believe that the identity of men is still a strong issue today, and that rather than promoting men to act like themselves, society tends to promote an unrealistic image of men as ripped, macho, manly men who shoot first and ask questions later. Just as unrealistic images of women which are propagated in the media cause many problems, those which taunt men often lead to men who are rough and calloused, empty husks of who they truly are. This article is a strongly written piece with a stance on a subject I feel strongly about.

### [The overbearing bonds of church and state](#)

Although one of my first articles, I spent a lot of time and research on this. I feel this article is strong because not only does it point out how much church and state are still intertwined in a nation which says they shouldn't be, but it uses copious amounts of historical evidence to provide a solid background on which to fully understand the issue's development. It also reveals the conflicted nature of the United States as a nation, as well as taking an optimistic stance by pointing out the diversity which makes this country great, rather than its many flaws.

### ["Affluenza" plagues the lawless upperclass](#)

This piece reflects upon the issues of a capitalist society by focusing on the isolated incident of a teenager under the influence committing vehicular manslaughter and getting away with a fine and a slap on the wrist. Why? Because his parents were extremely affluent. The plea for the case was that the boy, Ethan Couch, had lived such a privileged life that he had no way to know the consequences of his actions; about as absurd as the "twinkie" defense. My stance was that this ruling sends a message to the wealthy that they can get away with literal and metaphorical murder, because their sea of riches keeps them above the law.

## Initiative Taken

### [Alleged cheating threat understandable in Foothill's environment](#)

As well as being one of my strongest pieces this year, writing this article is a good example of me taking initiative. Although opinion writers don't often need to take initiative to write articles, because they don't often have to do with the school, I wrote this piece after hearing what many people in the junior class had been talking about, including multiple teachers from the American Experience AP classes; there had allegedly been a cheating scandal in one of these classes in which enough students cheated the teacher had to throw out the test score. By writing on a topic no news story had directly covered, and also due to the fact that I probably spent the most time writing and revising this article, it shows the initiative I took as a journalist even though I solely write opinions.

[A rally. a man. to remember](#)

## Community

Sean Anthony (712)

-Buena Boys' Varsity Cross Country and Track (1-2 years)  
-Job Shadowing medical professionals at VCMC (<1 year)

Another example of me taking initiative while writing about a school topic. Initially I had planned on writing an opinion piece on the school's drastically new renaissance rally after I had attended it, leaning to the side of criticism on first glance. When former Foothill staff member and one of my freshman teachers Mr. Christopher Prewitt was tragically hit and killed by a woman driving under the influence, I decided to change the direction and topic of my piece. I ended up writing about the tragedy of the incident and what Mr. Prewitt meant to me, and how his optimistic and life-affirming mentality was met hand to hand by the renaissance rally performance by Happiness is Now.

-Avid Rock Climbing (2 years)  
-Speech and Debate (<1 year)  
-Bioscience Leadership Team (2-3 years)

## Skill Set

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### Writing (Rockstar)



3-4 Years Experience, (Currently in use)

I have been writing throughout my whole education career, however it is something which has most recently improved drastically with the advent of writing for the Foothill Dragon Press. I have strongly developed my writing style as well as confidence as a writer.

### Meeting Deadline (Rockstar)



3-4 Years Experience, (Currently in use)

Meeting deadlines for assignments and projects is always something I have effectively done throughout school, and being a writer for the Dragon Press has only cemented that skill. Every two weeks I have had to write a new, thorough, and thought-provoking article, and the challenge has been difficult yet rewarding.

### Cooperation (Expert)



3-4 Years Experience, (Currently in use)

I have especially learned to cooperate while writing on the opinion section. Cooperating is something I practice regularly with both my editor who helps me perfect my articles, as well as other opinion writers who I may not always agree with.

### Computer Usage (Advanced)



3-4 Years Experience, (Currently in use)

All through high school it has been highly important to know how to effectively wield a computer while maintaining organization. While working for the dragon press I have had to keep my articles organized, as well as learned how to upload articles onto the back end of the site building a foundation of basic HTML coding knowledge.

### Photography (Intermediate)



1-2 Years Experience, (Last Used 1-2 years ago)

Photography is a skill I picked up as a sophomore in my digital photography class. Although I don't use it frequently still, I still have a background of knowledge for it, knowing how to work an SLR camera and the basics of how to compose a good shot.

### Photoshop Editing (Intermediate)



1-2 Years Experience, (Last Used 1-2 years ago)

Along with learning how to compose pictures through the lens, I have also learned how to compose and tweak them after the shot has been taken, using basic yet highly important Photoshop skills which can turn a dull picture into an intriguing one.