

column writing

mipa fall conference
10.23.08

possible column topics

- weird things you find in lockers
- cheapest things to do on a date
- driver's education horror stories
 - the date from Hell
- creative ways to turn someone down for a date
 - family trips
- allowances and the battle for more
- things teachers/adults hate to hear from teenagers
- things teenagers hate to hear from teachers/adults
 - useless things in your backpack
 - white lies teens tell their parents
- stupid graduation gifts and what to do with them
 - a horrible day at work
- things Dads do to embarrass their daughters
 - things Moms do to embarrass their sons
- the worst songs for use as cell phone ring tones

ideas courtesy of Bobby Hawthorne's
"The Radical Write" (used with permission)

column writing tips

1. Report first, write second
2. Don't criticize without offering solutions.
3. Be cautious when using humor and satire
4. Read other good columnists
5. Find an interesting angle
6. Be correct
7. Use the three D's: dialogue, description, detail
8. Be willing to take risks

types of columns

- personal experience
- persuasive/editorial topic
- other (lists, letters, puzzles, jokes etc.)