

MANY THANKS

Michigan State University School of Journalism
Society of Professional Journalists, Mid-Michigan Chapter
Society of Professional Journalists, Detroit Chapter
Our speakers and panelists today

MICHIGAN INTERSCHOLASTIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT, *Jeremy Van Hof*, DeWitt HS

1ST VICE PRESIDENT, *Lynn Strause*, retired from East Lansing HS

2ND VICE PRESIDENT, *C.E. Sikkenga*, Grand Haven HS

SECRETARY, *Kim Kozian*, L'Anse Creuse HS North

TREASURER, *Brian Wilson*, Waterford Kettering HS

TRUSTEE, *Tim Morley*, Inland Lakes HS

TRUSTEE, *Sue Spalding*, Quincy HS

TRUSTEE, *Pam Bunka*, Fenton HS

NEWSPAPER CHAIR, *Julie Price*, Haslett HS

YEARBOOK CHAIR, *Lynn Strause*, retired from East Lansing HS

BROADCAST/VIDEO CHAIR, *Diane Herder*, Laingsburg HS

LEGISLATIVE CHAIR, *Gloria Olman*, retired from Utica HS

WORKSHOP CHAIR, *Betsy Pollard Rau*, retired from H.H. Dow HS

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHAIR, *Jenny Birmelin*, Orchard Lake MS

HALL OF FAME CHAIR, *Jeff Nardone*, Grosse Pointe South HS

SPECIAL EVENTS CHAIR, *Rod Satterthwaite*, Dexter HS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, *Cheryl Pell*, Michigan State University

MIPA OFFICE, *Amy Brandt, Jayna Salk and Jon Vereecke*, MSU students

MISSION STATEMENT

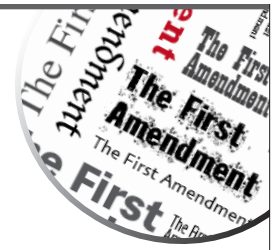
The Michigan Interscholastic Press Association is a non-profit organization composed of Michigan scholastic journalism teachers and publications advisers and their students.

The organization is committed to promoting and recognizing excellence in journalism at all levels through education, training and support of student journalists and their advisers.

MIPA supports First Amendment rights of student journalists in Michigan and believes that exercising freedom of expression responsibly involves adhering to the highest standards of journalism. Therefore, students and advisers have an obligation to learn and practice the legal and ethical responsibilities expected of journalists. MIPA provides support through its contests, conferences and scheduled activities.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT MICHIGAN INTERSCHOLASTIC PRESS ASSOCIATION, PLEASE VISIT THE WEB SITE AT WWW.MIPA.JRN.MSU.EDU, E-MAIL MIPA@MSU.EDU OR CALL (517) 353-6761.

STUDENT VOICES: CELEBRATING THE FIRST AMENDMENT



MUSIC SELECTIONS AND STAR SPANGLED BANNER

Laingsburg High School Jazz Band, *Mark Wells*, director
Soloist, *Allie Shiner*, Waterford Kettering High School

WELCOME

Cheryl Pell, director, MIPA
Jane Briggs-Bunting, director, MSU School of Journalism
Christie Bleck and *Gloria Olman*, Society of Professional Journalists

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Introduction: *Rod Satterthwaite*, special events chair, MIPA
Address: *Mary Beth Tinker*, plaintiff, *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District*

ESSAY: USING MY VOICE

Nor'risa Lawson, Southeastern High School of Technology, Detroit

GUEST SPEAKER

Katy Dean, plaintiff, *Dean v. Utica Community Schools*

ESSAY: MY BATTLE, MY BELIEF

Alice Perrault, East Jordan High School

MUSIC SELECTION

Laingsburg High School Jazz Band, *Mark Wells*, director

ESSAY: GAINING PERSPECTIVE

Bethany Davis, Mason High School

PANEL DISCUSSION

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Warren Watson, moderator, executive director, J-Ideas
Carol Koenig, president, Lansing/Jackson area, American Civil Liberties Union
Mike McConnell, editor, *The Profile*, Mason High School
Jeremy Steele, regional director, Society of Professional Journalists
Sen. Michael Switalski, (D)-Roseville
Mary Beth Tinker, plaintiff, *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District*

ESSAY: I BELIEVE IN THE STORYTELLER . . . AND THEIR STORIES

Viviana Arcia, Everett High School, Lansing

CLOSING

Jeremy Van Hof, president, MIPA

WHY MY VOICE MATTERS: ESSAY CONTEST WINNER, FIRST PLACE



I BELIEVE IN THE STORYTELLER— AND THEIR STORIES

*By Viviana Arcia
Everett High School*

Viviana is the editor in chief of Everett High School's newspaper, *The Viking Voice*. A senior, she is vice president of the National Honor Society, president of Everett Excellers, a member of Academic Decathlon, and creator of a series of workshops for middle and high school girls at Michigan State University.

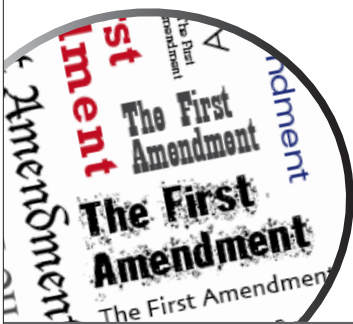
I believe in the power of storytelling. This noble art has allowed the opportunity to act as a narrator for the trials and victories of the human spirit as well as the great opportunity to recount and bring to light the tall tales that exist in my personal, as well as familial, psyche. Most of all, storytelling has served as a catalyst for the creation of my journalistic fervor and spirit, both of which could not have been made possible to me without the First Amendment and the democratic way of life it helped shaped.

Storytelling was modeled to me from a very early age. Although my distant homeland of Cuba is now only with me in fragments and broken memories, my mother and father made sure that my place of origin was never forgotten. They did this by anecdotal and stunning narratives of the events which had profoundly shaped their lives and which, without knowing, would deeply affect and remain in mine.

My mother's storytelling brought to life as well as healed the painful scars of my birth, which almost endangered her life as well as mine at the hands of a botched labor. Her story was one full of vivid imagery, so candid and perceptual that throughout it, I felt the burning lights from the labor room, the piercing screams of women in labor just a bed away, and even the false sense of security in the doctor who helped bring me to life, who turned his back on the Hippocratic oath and left my mother to fight for both her and her unborn child's life without medical treatment. My mother's stirring storytelling inspired me bring to light, through journalism, trying events gone through by courageous individuals, and that opportunity, was snugly tucked inside my father's memories, waiting to be brought to light.

My father's tales of life as a political prisoner, and the unfolding events that brought him to that predicament, entrusted to me not only the chance to bring his story to life but the realization of the noble role of the storyteller and the great responsibility that comes with the messenger role. At the pinnacle of his youth, my father was branded with the title of counterrevolutionary for reading, listening, and discussing dissenting views from those the Communist government held. He was imprisoned for over a year and later blacklisted from polite Cuban society.

My life as a high school journalist would not have occurred without my mother and father and the overwhelming need I felt to bring their stories to susceptible ears. My mother gave me the empathy I needed in order to connect with not only the subjects of my stories but its listeners as well. My father allowed me the inspiration to chronicle not only heroic stories, but to always remain grateful to the right afforded to all journalists in this country; the right to listen, write, and most of all, tell. In this, I believe.



WHY MY VOICE MATTERS: ESSAY CONTEST WINNER, SECOND PLACE

Homeschooled. Yes, it's true; my mom taught me at home for eight years. Everyone assumes that homeschooled kids are freaks. I will be honest; I was really sheltered, but is that a bad thing? Well, that's a matter of opinion. Granted, transitioning to public school provided quite a culture shock at age 12. I heard four-lettered words that I didn't even know existed. Almost six years later, I still can't believe some of the things I hear at my high school. I've seen and heard things that I'll never be able to erase from my mind—things with which I don't agree and never will. But is that bad? I don't think so; however, I haven't quite decided what I think. But I am confident in other things.

I believe that everyone should be able to speak his or her mind. I believe that one of the reasons the United States has flourished over the past few centuries is the fact that everyday citizens can say what they want without worrying about retribution from the government. But where should the line be drawn? Especially in the arena of public education, people argue about what kids hear and see on a daily basis.

Public education means that kids learn about a lot more than just multiplication, revolutions, and punctuation. Public education means that kids learn about life—about the lives of others, about the beliefs of others. Public education isn't always politically correct because people aren't naturally politically correct. Everyday people use four-lettered words. Everyday people use incorrect forms of "there," "your," and "two." But these people and their experiences are how kids come to understand life. Everyone can be a teacher, crying out to the masses about what he/she has come to know as truth. This is why I am thankful to have attended a public high school. Public schools have taught me about the real world. Public schools have shown me other perspectives. Public schools have opened my eyes and my ears.

Because of the freedom of speech, America appeals to people from all over the world. All of these people contribute to the culture in our country. Without their voices, the United States would not have its reputation as the melting pot of the world. Without their voices, I would not understand the world the way I do today. Without their voices, I would not be educated.

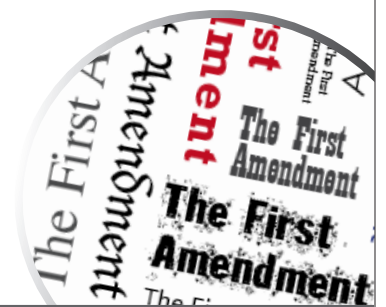
My voice matters. My voice can make a difference. How? I have absolutely no idea. But it's the fact that this possibility exists that gives me hope for the future. I can say what I want. I can teach younger generations what I have come to believe. They don't have to agree. But I can tell them what I think. I can change lives. I can do big things. I can change the world with my voice, with my thoughts, with my beliefs. I can make my mark. And I plan on doing just that.



GAINING PERSPECTIVE

*By Bethany Davis
Mason High School*

Bethany is attending the Honors College at Michigan State University but has not yet chosen a field of study. During high school, she was co-editor of the yearbook, as well as being involved in basketball, soccer, golf, Girls' Letter Club, and National Honor Society.



WHY MY VOICE MATTERS: ESSAY CONTEST WINNER, THIRD PLACE



MY BATTLE, MY BELIEF

*By Alice Perrault
East Jordan High School*

Alice graduated from East Jordan High School and was the editor in chief of the student newspaper, *The Devils' Advocate* for two and a half years. She interned at the *Petoskey News-Review* over the summer and is now a stringer. She is going to school online and plans to transfer to Central Michigan University in two years to get a bachelor's degree in journalism.

It didn't matter that I was on Channel 9 and 10 News. It didn't matter that I was on the radio, or that I had my name printed in newspapers. It didn't matter that I made enemies. What mattered was my cause, my passion. When the people and the things you love are put at risk, you fight for them. That is what I did.

Three years ago, my journalism class was threatened. My principal wanted to have prior review. No one understood why. We had never broken any rules, and had always put out an honest publication. So, we challenged the order. To our dismay, we were belittled and degraded in our meeting with her.

As a freshman coming into journalism, I was told to memorize the first amendment. It was in the years to come that I learned what those words meant, and what power they possessed. Knowing this, I was determined to not quit, and I never did.

It was difficult finding the courage to stand against our administration, but it was even harder to endure their harsh words. However, instead of giving up, and allowing prior review to consume our voices, my journalism class fought harder than ever. We were not willing to stop fighting just because we were yelled at. I knew that we were not doing anything wrong, and I was not going to allow our voices to be slighted in that way.

In attempts to raise awareness, we wrote articles and spread the word. Most people agreed prior review was unnecessary and against our Constitutional rights.

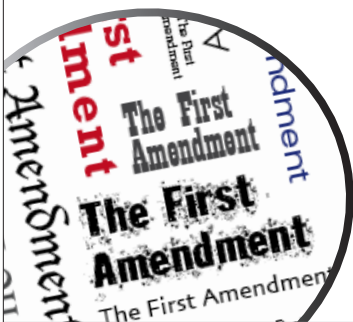
However, it was very clear that our popularity rank with the administration was dwindling. We no longer received the same level of respect we used to as student journalists. This didn't matter to me though; I was not going to give up until I reached my goal to eliminate prior review.

Eventually, our class was pulled.

At this point, I was outraged. Journalism is a large part of who I am. Without it I do not know where I would be. So, I kept fighting. I petitioned the school board and presented signatures to them stating that the people of East Jordan agreed with me. They thought that we should have our class back.

Our protest gained a lot of media attention. We received many letters of support, and had our story spread in newspapers, on televised news, and on the radio. In the end, we got our class back—without prior review!

I know now that the reason administration treated us so harshly is because they were afraid of us, afraid of what we could do. I feel strongly that if you believe in something, you have no choice but to fight for it. As long as I live, I will always fight for what is right, I will always fight for journalism and the voices behind it.



WHY MY VOICE MATTERS: ESSAY CONTEST WINNER, FOURTH PLACE

I am writing this essay on Why My Voice Matters because I don't think people actually take time to realize how much they can accomplish just by voicing their opinions and concerns. I am an 18-year-old senior at Southeastern High School in Detroit, Michigan. I have been attending this school since I started high school three years ago in the ninth grade. Everything that I have said I wanted to do scholastically and athletically, I have done or at least tried it so far. I'm not saying that just because you want it or want to do it that you can, but most of the time if you try, you will have a greater chance at succeeding. If I wasn't able to do what I said I wanted to do, then I would have been denied the right to my personal freedom and pursuit of happiness.

I believe that since we have the right to voice our opinion, say what we want, and write what we want—most of the time—then we should all take the initiative to do just that. If we have an opportunity to do or say something, then we should do it. Our ancestors fought for a long time for us to be able to voice our opinions. I think we should all take full advantage of this freedom while people are still listening and have the willingness to listen.

During my time at Southeastern, I have been a member of JROTC, golf, DECA, drama and journalism. The only reason I became a member of these organizations is because I used my voice. I used my voice when I said that I was going to become a member of these groups. I encourage my friends who want something to speak up, write about it, and tell it to someone who can help them accomplish it.

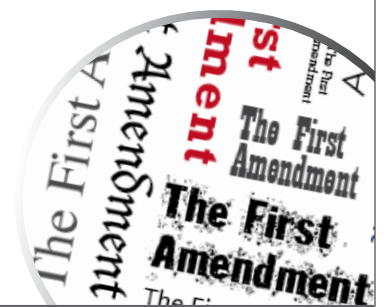
I still have a few other things I plan on doing and a few teams I plan on becoming a part of before I graduate from high school. I plan on traveling to many places in order to gain new experiences. All of this has happened because I had and still have the right to voice my opinion—and do whatever I want—just as long as I don't harm anyone else while I'm in the process of using my voice. If you want something, go for it, because if you never try or aim for anything, then you'll never get whatever it is you want. We have the freedom to use our voice, so why don't we use it? This is why my voice matters.



USING MY VOICE

*By Nor'rishia Lawson
Southeastern High
School of Technology*

Currently a senior at Southeastern, Nor'rishia is an editor for the student newspaper, the Southeastern Jungaleers. She plans to attend Michigan State University and pursue a career that will afford her enough money to help those who are in need.



THE FIRST AMENDMENT

CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW RESPECTING

AN ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIGION,

OR PROHIBITING THE FREE EXERCISE THEREOF;

OR ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH,

OR OF THE PRESS; OR THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE

PEACEABLY TO ASSEMBLE, AND TO PETITION THE

GOVERNMENT FOR A REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES.

