

**7**  
MINUTE  
STARTER

## 4.4 | Caption Writing

*Jostens*

# STEP 1 - LEARN

- You will learn how to identify a good caption and how to write one.

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# GREAT CAPTIONS

- Don't state **anything** that can be seen in the photo.
- Include names and grades of everyone in the photo.  
(except in large-group candid shots)
- Answer **as many** of the 5Ws and H as possible.
- Add more background information.

# CAPTION CONSTRUCTION

- Give details about what is happening.
- Include information about what went on **just before** the instant captured in the photo.
- Include results of the action occurring in the photo.
- Include quotes if the thoughts of the subjects are important and interesting.

# SAMPLE CAPTION

## V

Charlotte and Troy performed a duet from the Disney hit High School Musical. The pair performed as Gabriella and Troy, while other starring roles include freshman Link Lipsitz as Ryan and Hockaday student Ashley Rich as Sharpay.

**BREAKING FREE**

In the winter musical, seniors Charlotte Gunn and Taubert Nadalini perform a duet from the Disney hit High School Musical. The pair performed as Gabriella and Troy, while other starring roles include freshman Link Lipsitz as Ryan and Hockaday student Ashley Rich as Sharpay.

**HEARTS AGLOWING**

Lower Division students performed a duet from the Disney hit High School Musical. The pair performed as Gabriella and Troy, while other starring roles include freshman Link Lipsitz as Ryan and Hockaday student Ashley Rich as Sharpay.

**STUDENT AND TEACHER**

Students and teachers performed a duet from the Disney hit High School Musical. The pair performed as Gabriella and Troy, while other starring roles include freshman Link Lipsitz as Ryan and Hockaday student Ashley Rich as Sharpay.

**CHAMPIONS**

Students and teachers performed a duet from the Disney hit High School Musical. The pair performed as Gabriella and Troy, while other starring roles include freshman Link Lipsitz as Ryan and Hockaday student Ashley Rich as Sharpay.

**DISNEY**

Students and teachers performed a duet from the Disney hit High School Musical. The pair performed as Gabriella and Troy, while other starring roles include freshman Link Lipsitz as Ryan and Hockaday student Ashley Rich as Sharpay.

**full**

Students performed a duet from the Disney hit High School Musical. The pair performed as Gabriella and Troy, while other starring roles include freshman Link Lipsitz as Ryan and Hockaday student Ashley Rich as Sharpay.

**CHAMPIONS**

Students and teachers performed a duet from the Disney hit High School Musical. The pair performed as Gabriella and Troy, while other starring roles include freshman Link Lipsitz as Ryan and Hockaday student Ashley Rich as Sharpay.

**CHAMPIONS**

Students and teachers performed a duet from the Disney hit High School Musical. The pair performed as Gabriella and Troy, while other starring roles include freshman Link Lipsitz as Ryan and Hockaday student Ashley Rich as Sharpay.

**CHAMPIONS**

Students and teachers performed a duet from the Disney hit High School Musical. The pair performed as Gabriella and Troy, while other starring roles include freshman Link Lipsitz as Ryan and Hockaday student Ashley Rich as Sharpay.

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St. Mark's School of Texas [TX]

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A caption like this cannot be written without doing some reporting. Staffers should expect to interview the people they are photographing.

# REPORTING IS REQUIRED

- Always get essential information (names, grades, scores, opponents, etc) while at the event.
- Record other observations.
- Interview photo subjects.
- Utilize your resources.
  - Can you work in pairs: one of you photograph while a fellow staffer takes notes?
  - Do you have notes from a related story on the topic?

# CAPTURING QUOTES

- Direct quotes add depth and perspective.
- Direct quotes are preferred over indirect quotes.
  - **Direct quote:** “The Homecoming bonfire is one of my favorite events of the year,” said Jonie Stevens (11), “It’s so fun to hang out with friends on a cool fall night.”
  - **Indirect quote:** Jonie Stevens says the homecoming bonfire is one of her favorite events of the year.
- Not every caption requires a quote but they should be used as often as possible.

# SEALED LIPS

- Ask open-ended follow-up questions.
- Dig deeper
- Focus on your subject
- Appear interested



# SEALED LIPS

- Open ended questions
  - Describe what it was like when...
  - How did you feel when...
  - Why did you...
  - What were you thinking when...

Identifies individuals. Sometimes offers a brief explanation of photo content.

## 7 MINUTE STARTER

Kirkwood High School [MO]



# QUOTE CAPTION

Provides information through the words of the subject in the photo.



**ON A HIGH NOTE**  
These students are making their unique insights known through their unique insights.

**Living by the Numbers**  
While numbers may be an infinite set, when they are paired with the human experience they offer endless opportunities that have a lasting impact in life.

**60+**  
The number of students who are part of the orchestra is a testament to the school's commitment to music education. The students are passionate about their craft and are dedicated to their practice.

**7**  
The number of students who are part of the orchestra is a testament to the school's commitment to music education. The students are passionate about their craft and are dedicated to their practice.

**Closing the Gap**  
The number of students who are part of the orchestra is a testament to the school's commitment to music education. The students are passionate about their craft and are dedicated to their practice.

**1**  
The number of students who are part of the orchestra is a testament to the school's commitment to music education. The students are passionate about their craft and are dedicated to their practice.

**6**  
The number of students who are part of the orchestra is a testament to the school's commitment to music education. The students are passionate about their craft and are dedicated to their practice.

**Caution in the Moment**  
These students are making their unique insights known through their unique insights.

**1**  
The number of students who are part of the orchestra is a testament to the school's commitment to music education. The students are passionate about their craft and are dedicated to their practice.

**2**  
The number of students who are part of the orchestra is a testament to the school's commitment to music education. The students are passionate about their craft and are dedicated to their practice.

**3**  
The number of students who are part of the orchestra is a testament to the school's commitment to music education. The students are passionate about their craft and are dedicated to their practice.

**4**  
The number of students who are part of the orchestra is a testament to the school's commitment to music education. The students are passionate about their craft and are dedicated to their practice.

**5**  
The number of students who are part of the orchestra is a testament to the school's commitment to music education. The students are passionate about their craft and are dedicated to their practice.

**6**  
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**7**  
The number of students who are part of the orchestra is a testament to the school's commitment to music education. The students are passionate about their craft and are dedicated to their practice.

**8**  
The number of students who are part of the orchestra is a testament to the school's commitment to music education. The students are passionate about their craft and are dedicated to their practice.

**9**  
The number of students who are part of the orchestra is a testament to the school's commitment to music education. The students are passionate about their craft and are dedicated to their practice.

**10**  
The number of students who are part of the orchestra is a testament to the school's commitment to music education. The students are passionate about their craft and are dedicated to their practice.

**7 MINUTE STARTER**

Holmes Middle School [MI]

*Festens*

# COLLECTIVE CAPTION

Two parts: 1: Overall description. 2: ID and brief description of each photo.

1. Shawn Trejo examines the vertebrae while dangling it above his head so he can view it as a whole.
2. Holding a bone, Cierra Wran and Han Bertsch prepare for the practicum.
3. Natasha Sherwood puts a skull on her head as her friend Hailey Yocham jokingly names the bones in Sherwood's head.



7 MINUTE STARTER

Tesoro High School [CA]

Festens

# SUMMARY CAPTION

Highlights the most important of the five Ws and H.

## A Winter Wonderland

Students wanted to have fun but didn't want to leave their school. So they went to the winter wonderland of the school. The winter wonderland was a place where students could have fun and enjoy the winter weather. The winter wonderland was a place where students could have fun and enjoy the winter weather.

Over the two week vacation from school, **Brendy Brown** took a trip to the winter wonderland. She went to the winter wonderland and had a great time. She went to the winter wonderland and had a great time. She went to the winter wonderland and had a great time.

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### LET ME TAKE A SELFIE

In Greer, Arizona Jackson Maahs, Nicholas Gregory and Kyle Grommes visit *Sunrise Ski Resort* to snowboard over the break.

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089

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Kirkwood High School [MO]

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# EXPANDED CAPTION

Highlights the most important of the five Ws and H plus additional details.

### Stress to be the Best

"The Carrollton game was our toughest because we were playing against a team that was really good. We had to be on our game from the start. Coach Hammond helped us stay focused and motivated throughout the game. We knew we had to win this one to stay in the playoffs." - Taylor Todd, 10.

### Favorite Reflections

"The best part of the game was when we scored the winning shot. It was a team effort and we knew we had to win this one. Coach Hammond really helped us stay focused and motivated throughout the game. We knew we had to win this one to stay in the playoffs." - Taylor Todd, 10.

### IN THE COACH'S CORNER

During the Carrollton game, sophomore Taylor Todd listens intently to advice from Coach Hammond. According to Todd, having Coach Hammond really helped the way they played their game. "Getting different ways of learning the game provided new ways for improvement. As a team, we got so much better at bonding" - Taylor Todd, 10.

### Pumped up and Ready

"We were pumped up and ready for the game. We knew we had to win this one to stay in the playoffs. Coach Hammond helped us stay focused and motivated throughout the game. We knew we had to win this one to stay in the playoffs." - Taylor Todd, 10.

### New Court, Same Game

"We were on a new court, but the game was the same. We knew we had to win this one to stay in the playoffs. Coach Hammond helped us stay focused and motivated throughout the game. We knew we had to win this one to stay in the playoffs." - Taylor Todd, 10.

### Born to Ball

"I was born to ball. I love playing basketball. I know I have to work hard to become a professional player. Coach Hammond helped me stay focused and motivated throughout the game. I know I have to win this one to stay in the playoffs." - Taylor Todd, 10.

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Whitewater High School [GA]

Jestens

# NO KIDDING!

- Joke captions are **not** tolerated.
- **At worst**, they can be considered libel.
- **At best**, they may offend.

# STEP 2 - PRACTICE

- On the next slide, read about the three parts of an expanded caption.
- As a class, work together to construct a caption for the photo on the next slide using *Handout 4.4a - 1, 2, 3 Captions*.
- Independently, write a caption for the next photo. Share your captions as a class.
- Write a caption for a photo you took this week and make sure it's high quality.



# PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

- Expanded captions have three or four parts.
  - A **lead-in**.
    - Be clever. Use rhyming, play-on-words or alliteration.
  - An **informational first sentence** in present tense.
    - Names, grades, factual information about the 5Ws and H.
  - A **descriptive second sentence** in past tense.
    - Include background information that cannot be seen in the photo. Information like what happened before the photo, right after the photo, or what happened as a result of the action in the photo.
  - An **optional quote** as a last sentence.



## WRITE A CAPTION:

- **Who:** Seniors Maria Gonzales, Jennifer Williams
- **What:** Taking pictures of themselves
- **When:** After Friday, October 15 pep rally
- **Where:** In the school parking lot
- **Why:** Because they were named homecoming maids, elected by popular vote of the student body
- **Describe the best memories of the event:**  
"I was thrilled when Maria was named one of the maids and I never even heard them announce my name. Then Maria screamed and pointed at me. We took our pic together to send to our grandparents and post on Facebook."
- **Tell us something we can't see from the photo:** Maria and Jennifer have been best friends since kindergarten.

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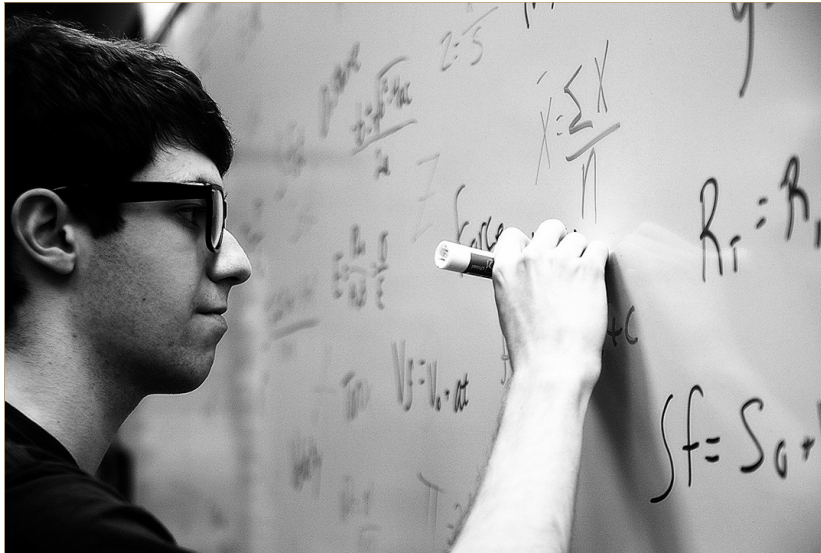
## WRITE A CAPTION:

- **Who:** An English teacher, Mrs. Smith, her class, and a plastic raven named Edgar.
- **What:** Reading Edgar Allen Poe's *The Raven* in the dark while dressed Halloween costumes.
- **When:** Halloween Day
- **Where:** Mrs. Smith's classroom
- **Why:** Part of the literature unit in English 4.
- **Describe the best memories of the event:** "With the lights turned off and the flashlights illuminating the books, an eerie atmosphere surrounds the students, dressed in their favorite Halloween costumes. I love it." –Becca Guevera
- **Tell us something we can't see from the photo:** This is an annual event in Mrs. Smith's class. Each year she dresses up and reads to the class with Edgar the raven.

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Horizon High School [AZ]

*Festens*



## WRITE A CAPTION:

- Write a caption for one of the photos you took this week.
- Alternatively, write a caption for the photo on this slide, making up the 5Ws and H.

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Horizon High School [AZ]

*Jostens*

## STEP 3 - USE

- You will be using your caption-writing skills on every page of your book, so keep practicing!
- Tomorrow we will be using the photos and clip files from earlier in this week. Be sure your work is done.