

# Yearbook Copy Writing

2011 KSPA Regional Competition

## Description

You are a member of Ad Astra High School's yearbook staff. Your editor has assigned you to write a 200-word story using the information provided.

## School Info

Name: Ad Astra High School

Location: Aspera, Kansas

Mascot: Box Turtles

Enrollment: 850 (grades 9-12)

School Colors: Green & Gold

Yearbook: The Honeybee

Newspaper: The Star

## Contest Info

This is an **on-site** contest.

Please attach **your assigned contest number** in the upper right-hand corner of your entry.

**Do not** put your name on the entry. If you do, your entry will be disqualified.

Students are not to request help or advice from anyone other than the KSPA Executive Director. All work must be that of the contestant.

## Assignment

You are to write a 200-word yearbook story based on the facts and quotes below. The story will run with a photo spread of the Ad Astra students' experience at the governor's inaugural ball.

The writer should determine which information is relevant and important to the story. Students may write in pen or pencil. Students may use dictionary, thesaurus and A.P. style manuals. The use of personal listening devices (i.e. iPods), recording devices, electric typewriters and personal computers during the contest is prohibited.

## Background

- Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback took office this January after winning the November election in a landslide victory over his Democratic opponent, Tom Holland from Baldwin City.
- During his campaign, Brownback, who most recently was a U.S. Senator representing Kansas in Washington, D.C., promised that he would invite some of the top students in the state to his inaugural ball, scheduled for Jan. 8 in Topeka.
- The ball was held at Topeka's ExpoCentre and two Ad Astra students were among the 50 high school students in attendance.
- While Brownback spent most of his night chatting with friends and family, he made sure to welcome each of the students who were being honored. He shook their hands as he visited the tables at which the students sat.
- Annie Rand, an Ad Astra senior, wore a crimson dress that she bought especially for the occasion. She purchased it for \$85 at L'Aspera, an upscale women's store in Aspera. It was on sale for 75 percent off its original price. She also wore a single strand of fake pearls. Rand, who has blond hair, also wore what she called "reasonable heels," a pair of simple black pumps.
- Rand is a 4.0 student and president of the Ad Astra Young Republicans Club at school. She's also teaches Sunday school at the Aspera Baptist Church. Her mother and father have long been active in the Aspera GOP, her father having served in the Kansas Legislature for three terms in the 1990s. Her father's name is Paul Rand and her mother's name is also Annie Rand.
- Rand earned the invitation by writing an essay entitled "American Exceptionalism: The Key to Winning over the Muslim World." It was an essay about the role of public relations in convincing Middle Eastern countries that democracy is the best system of government.

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## Background con't...

- Freddie Engle, another senior, was the other invitee from AAHS. Engle wore a shimmering blue tuxedo. He found the 1970s-era tux at the Vintage store Old Aspera downtown, and then glued rhinestones on the lapels to spell out his initials. There was an F on his right lapel (left if you were looking at him), and an E on the opposite lapel. He also wore a pair of patched madras plaid pants that his father had worn at KU back in the early 1980s. His shoes were old-school white Chuck Taylors.
- His parents are Jack Engle, an Aspera College English professor, and Vivian Handle, a social worker in Aspera.
- Engle's winning essay was entitled "Sins of the Father: How America Can Atone for Past Sins and Lead the World Righteously."
- Engle is also a 4.0 student and president of the Ad Astra Peace is Patriotic Club. He is a peer mentor at the Aspera Unitarian Universalist Church and volunteers at a local halfway house.
- Engle and Rand carpooled to the inauguration and the ball with all four parents in the Engle family's 1978 VW bus.
- They arrived at the ball 7 p.m. and waited for the governor to make his appearance. Rand's parents already had tickets to the ball. Engle's parents dropped everybody off and spent the night at the Starbucks on Wanamaker Road.
- 2,200 people attended the ball.
- Brownback wore a black tuxedo, and first lady Mary Brownback wore a teal gown by Kansas City area designer Michael Nolte.
- Organizers raised nearly \$500,000 in private funds for the event. Tickets started at \$125, with sponsors giving up to \$2,000.
- The menu was thoroughly Kansan, featuring a "Wheat State Salad" and beef medallions.
- The Strolling Strings of Shawnee Mission North High School entertained the crowd with standards through dinner.

## Quotes

- Annie Rand (student): "This has to be the best day of my life. Because the last two governors were from the Democrat party, my father wasn't invited to their inaugural balls. Before that, I was too young to go."
- Rand: "I met the governor before, but this was really a special night. Of course he knew me because he knows my father so well. He said my name and shook my hand. I am so excited, both for myself and for Kansas. We finally have a real leader."
- Freddie Engle: "It was really cool. It was so nice to see people from both political parties sitting down for one night to toast their new leader. I know I don't agree with the new governor on just about anything, but I believe he is a good person who will work hard for the state."
- Engel: "I was more into making a fashion statement than a political statement. It's easy to wear a black tuxedo. It takes real guts and incredible style to pull off this outfit."
- Brownback, in a speech to the crowd: "I want to make special note of 50 young people, who through their hard work and determination have distinguished themselves as scholars. Ladies and gentlemen, if you have time, visit Tables 9 through 15 and get a chance to say hello to these high school students. They are Kansas' future."
- Brownback's toast: "Here's to Kansas – raise your glass high. To a state of grace and beauty... Where the Civil War started because we would not tolerate one person being enslaved to another... a place that grows wheat, to give men bread."