

# For Your AMUSEment!

Creating an online literary magazine to showcase student talent and achievement

## Author Information

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## Design Criteria

### Applied technology and technology systems:

Each written piece must be computer processed, edited, and must include the authors name and a brief background. All artistic works must include the artists name, piece title, and brief information about the piece. If the artist so chooses, he or she may write a corresponding paper to explain their piece. All formatting, designing, advertising, and publishing is to be done using Microsoft Office and/or other programs. While the length depends upon the number of submissions, the magazine will fall approximately between twenty and forty pages per month. The webpage will include an area for blogs, reader comments, literary updates, etc. This is your chance to be creative!

**Communications:** As with any other consumer product, this literary magazine must have adequate advertising. This may include but is not limited to: flyers around schools and in local businesses, bulletin boards, newspaper articles/ads, excerpts in daily announcements, online advertising, etc. Each advertisement must be created with a Microsoft Office program and/or other programs. Advertisements should explain the purpose of the magazine (to illuminate the student voice) as well as persuade the consumer to visit the magazine regularly and participate in online discussions. It should also explain the functions and benefits of the magazine to your community.

## Unit Design

**Context:** Quite possibly one of the most important inventions of the 15th century, the printing press today has allowed billions of people to read, write, and express their opinions. As Americans, we flourish and thrive on the idea of freedom of speech; however, high school students' voices and thoughts are rarely heard in such a jammed packed and busy world that focuses on big business and the adult. As the future leaders of America, it is important for students to learn how to express their creativity and thoughts in a meaningful, creative, inclusive, and productive manner. In order to do this, students must create and build a form of publication to share with your peers and your community: an online literary magazine written and produced by students.

**Task:** The students' mission is to imagine, create, write, draw, edit, publish, advertise, update, and share a literary magazine with their peers in electronic, online form. Things to be included in the magazine can include but are not limited to: short stories, poetry, essays, literary criticism, book/movie/play/event reviews, biographical profiles of authors, interviews, letters, art, etc. The project must include a literary or artistic work that the author or artist wishes to share with their community, a close editing workshop, publication, and advertisement throughout the district. The purpose of this assignment is to share with the community and world your thoughts, opinions, and ideas that you have generated over the course of the year. Now is the time for the student voice to be heard!

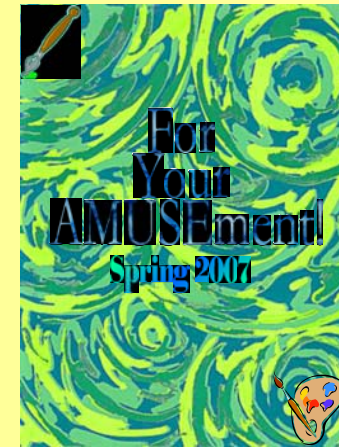
## The Big Picture

So why have students make an online literary magazine? Not only do lots of people have access to an online version of the publication, but providing an online magazine gives students a chance to explore their creativity using technology. Print can limit students visually and can be expensive to print in color. By publishing the magazine online, students can use graphics, video, music, and other forms of technological design to make their publication come alive.

There are many advantages to publishing the literary magazine online. For instance, students can create a discussion forum that would allow people to comment on the pieces published in the magazine. Students could also link pages to their pieces that provide the viewer with more information, such as where that student got their inspiration. Creating pieces online also creates motivation because students' creativity isn't limited to pencil and paper and they are able to share their work with anyone who has internet access. Furthermore, the magazine is easy to access and update when it is in electronic form.

Finally, students must work in teams and brainstorm how to use technology to their advantage by working together. This provides students with important communication skills that they will need throughout their lives. Creating an online literary magazine that showcases their work throughout the year in their English class supports motivation throughout the year and gives students a tangible product to share with others that illustrates all their hard work.

## Sample Online Magazine Cover



## Historical References

Throughout history, events such as the Tiananmen Square Protests to debates on school policy have illuminated the student voice. However, our current media fails to provide a variety of opportunities for the student voice to be heard. Clearly, it is important for students to find their public voice and learn to express their opinions, dreams, desires, and needs.

## Sample Advertisement



### STUDENTS OF ARAPAHOE HIGH SCHOOL, LISTEN UP!

Are you tired of reading magazines that don't highlight your voice? Do you spend countless hours online with nothing to read or look at? Do you want to comment on your peers creative works and pieces? THEN THIS IS YOUR LUCKY DAY!

The students of Ms. Johnson's English class are producing an online literary magazine titled "For Your AMUSEment!" This magazine gives students a chance to speak their minds, publish their works, and receive feedback from hundreds of viewers! Visit us online or submit a work of your own!

Submissions can include:

Art work  
Poetry  
Book/movie/event/music reviews  
Comic drawings

Essays  
Literary Criticism  
Short Stories  
Interviews

And more!!!



Please contact Ms. Johnson in room 3A in the Language Arts Department for questions!

Submissions are due December 1st For the Spring 2007 issue of "For Your AMUSEment!"

Isn't it time you let your creative voice run free? Unleash your muse!!

## Pre-task Activity

Your team must:

- Journal write or draw about certain topics that are important to you
- Research some of the topics you wrote about in your journals. Research should be used in papers to support opinions or provide examples.
- Examine other literary journals in publication
- Examine other literary journals' advertising mechanisms
- Examine online literary journals

## Task Activity

- Designate which team members want to be apart of each aspect of the magazine. Everyone must write, therefore, positions that need to be delegated include: an editing team, a website design team, an advertising and marketing team, and a support team. Everyone must have an equal part in the process and be included in each individual team's decisions.
- Decide which technology is best fit for each stage of production.
- Write, edit, design, and create a beautiful and powerful student based literary magazine!
- Obtain public feedback after the first few issues in order to make your magazine a continual success.