

The VILLANOVAN

The official student newspaper of Villanova University since 1916

APPLICATION FOR WRITERS

Dear applicant,

Thank you for your desire to become a part of the 94-year tradition that is *The Villanovan*. Whether you are interested in becoming a staff reporter, photographer, graphic designer or member of our business team, being a part of your college newspaper is a learning experience unlike any that can be found in the classroom. The benefits of working on our weekly publication are many and varied—from the ability to expand your portfolio and hone your writing and communication skills to the opportunity to earn a larger leadership role within the organization.

Know that while you put time into applying for a position on staff, the editorial board will also put significant time into evaluating your abilities and will do its best to place you in a position where your skills will be best utilized.

In addition to completing the application below, please attach a writing sample. You are strongly encouraged to submit a sample of any work you have had published in a high school or local newspaper, as previous journalism experience is preferred but not required. An academic paper demonstrating your writing abilities is acceptable.

Please e-mail your completed application to apply@villanovan.com or deliver to *The Villanovan* office in 201 Dougherty Hall. You will be notified with a decision within three weeks of submitting your application.

Sincerely,

The Villanovan Editorial Board 2010

Name: _____

Graduation Year: _____

Cell phone #: _____

E-mail: _____

College/Major: _____

Section Preference: Please list your order of preference from 1 (most preferred) to 5 (least preferred). **Be sure to fill in at least three**, understanding that we may not be able to place you in your most preferred section.

News _____ Features _____ Arts & Entertainment _____ Opinion _____ Sports _____

Please complete the following on a separate page:

1. Please describe any previous journalism experience.

2. What other responsibilities will you have this semester?

3. Below are several informal assessments we'll use in evaluating your current skills. Please complete the one for the section you most prefer.

WRITERS' ASSESSMENT

NEWS

The News section includes breaking news articles, event coverage and investigative pieces. We understand that not everyone has had news-writing experience, but your ability to learn and take direction is very important to us. Please review the following techniques and write a short news article by reorganizing and rewriting the information provided below.

- Inverted Pyramid Lead

The first sentence, or lead, should convey the most captivating information in the article (i.e. the reason it is newsworthy). Organize the facts in the sentence in order of importance, for instance, the date that an event took place is generally the last element of the sentence, while the “who” and “what” is incorporated into the beginning.

- Quotes

A quote should always start a new paragraph, and the attribution should come after the first sentence of the quote. The rest of the quote should follow without any extra lead-in.

Example:

“Talk about getting old,” Joan Rivers said. “I was getting dressed and a peeping tom looked in the window, took a look and pulled down the shade.”

Rewrite the following information according to the techniques described above. Include an inverted pyramid lead, reorganizing and rewording according to how you see fit.

On Monday night, Superintendent Max Schmidt proposed a revision in the school manual to the DeKalb Board of Education. This is the first time the manual has been revised in 20 years. The new manual allows students permission to wear their hair any length and to wear blue jeans. Other changes were that teachers could not use physical punishment on students and students convicted of using drugs will be suspended for 20 days. Board member Janet Biss said she opposed several of the changes. “These rules were good enough for my generation. They’re good enough for the students now.” The board voted 5-2 to approve the new manual.

FEATURES

The Features section is an outlet for informative articles and special interest pieces that are not necessarily time sensitive. Take some time to consider what you think would make a good features article for *The Villanovan*. What concerns or interests you about your college experience that you think also applies to others? What issue do you think our readers would like to see explored? Please describe in detail two ideas you have for features articles.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Please write a short review (500-600 words) of an album, movie or book of your choice, demonstrating your talent as a critic.

OPINION

Please describe the type of column you wish to write, in addition to submitting a sample.

SPORTS

Please write a short recap (500-600 words) of a sporting event of your choice (other than basketball), whether you watch it live or on television. It should demonstrate your knowledge of technical terms and familiarity with sports writing. Please also list the Villanova sports you are most interested in covering.