



Kienna Kulzer

Freelance Writer

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Character

I think that integrity is the most important quality to have as a journalist. Writing and other skills can be taught and improved, but a publication will not succeed or receive respect without integrity. It builds community and loyalty, and it's what makes journalism so important in any society or culture. Journalists are meant to hold people and the government accountable, which is impossible if the journalists are not holding themselves accountable as well. I have always worked hard to make sure that I and my staff report honestly and ethically for the Dragon Press. I think the time when that was really put to the test for me was when I worked on the slut-shaming article because it is a topic that I am very passionate about and I had to make sure that I removed my own opinions from my reporting, especially when interviewing people I didn't agree with.

Extracurriculars

1. Roots & Shoots

I volunteer with the environmental service organization Roots & Shoots, doing clean-ups at local parks and beaches and volunteering at the Ojai Raptor Center.

2. Violin

I have played the violin for 6 years and perform in recitals twice a year.

Character

Writing (Expert)

3-4 Years Experience, (Currently in use)

Being a reporter and editor for the Dragon Press, I have improved tremendously as a writer. I know how to communicate effectively and accurately, tell a story, and apply grammar and AP style.

Editing (Advanced)

1-2 Years Experience, (Currently in use)

As Features editor, it has been my job to check my staff's articles for grammar, accuracy, and writing. I have a much better knowledge of grammar and AP style, along with the ability to make sure the work of others is their best without editing out their voice or their own words.

Communication (Expert)

3-4 Years Experience, (Currently in use)

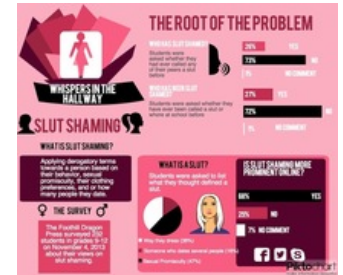
Good communication is essential to journalism. Especially with Features and sensitive topics, it is vital to make people feel comfortable and welcome when they are being interviewed, so they feel like they can talk to you honestly without judgement or risk of harming their reputation.

Education

Foothill Technology High School

Best Work

'Slut-shaming' impacts Foothill students at school and online, survey shows



This is the article fellow features writer, Ana Bello, and I worked on earlier this year. We focused on bullying, specifically slut-shaming, where girls are labeled derogatory terms because of their behavior, sexual promiscuity, clothing preferences, or the amount of people they date.

'Train Whistle Sub' reflects on 60 years of teaching



I recently did a feature piece on Sam Marsh, who has been a teacher in Ventura County for 60 years.

Students find lifelong benefits from bilingualism



I interviewed students at our school who speak multiple languages and researched the different benefits of having that skill.

Ventura, United States

Magna Cum Laude

Work History

City of Ventura, Recreation Department

Ventura, United States

Jun 2014 - Present

Recreation Leader

I am employed by the City of Ventura as a camp counselor at Camp Ventura. I work primarily during the summer months

Foothill Dragon Press

Ventura, United States

Aug 2011 - Jun 2014

Features Editor and Writer

Served as News and Features reporter for three years, Features Editor for two years

Personal Initiative

1. Last year, I brainstormed ideas and worked with my staff and editors to create the health section within the Features section. At first we were worried it might not be interesting enough to our readers or not be updated often enough, but some of the recipe articles have been very popular and the health section is still a consistent part of the publication.

2. When it came out that there had been cyber bullying at Foothill, fellow staffer Ana Bello and I took the situation as an opportunity to look at bullying both online and in our school. We focused specifically on "slut shaming," when students, primarily girls, are labeled derogatory terms because of their behavior, sexual promiscuity, clothing preferences, or how many people they date. It is a controversial and sensitive issue to cover, but we thought that it was important to start a discussion and report on how it relates to the atmosphere at Foothill.

3. During Every 15 Minutes in 2012, I volunteered to work with the team covering the two-day event. I helped with interviewing and reporting the first day, then spent the night to help them work on the article and got up early the next day to cover the "funeral" held for the "dead" students. Even though it was a lot of work for two days straight, I really enjoyed covering the event and being a part of the reporting team.
