

BACK TO THE BASICS

Writing captions the right way

So you want to be a caption writer? We know the answer—NO! Most of you do not want to be a caption writers. You think it's too hard. You think it's too difficult to think up just the right thing to say about that particular picture. Well, let us help with this quick and easy lesson on how to write captions.

See the picture above. Let's write a caption for it. One that tells everything we need to know about the picture but also one that will grab the readers' eye and get them to read it.

Step 1: Who is in the photo? French students Marta McFarland, Robert Underhill, Teresa Jamon and Terry Smythe.

Step 2: What are they doing, and what happened as a result of what they did? They are going over their French homework assignment but seem to have found something funny in their French textbook. They told their teacher, who told the principal, who told the school board.

Step 3: When did all this happen? Just before third period on a school day in October.

Step 4: Where did this take place? In Mrs. Yablonksi's French classroom.



Step 5: Take those facts and create your basic caption. French students Marta McFarland, Robert Underhill, Teresa Jamon and Terry Smythe laugh over a double-meaning caption in their French textbook before Mrs. Yablonksi's third period class in early October 2007.

Step 6: Add a second line if there is additional information that does not fit into the basic caption. The school board later found that the double-meaning caption was obscene and ordered the book removed from the school.

Step 7: Edit the two sentences to remove redundant words and change the order so as not to make all captions begin with the people's names.

Step 8: Add an eye-catching kicker to the caption, and there you have it. See the caption to the far right of the photo. Then check out the other examples.

PLAINFIELD/ILLINOIS

Here's a great caption for this photo. It covers everything it needs to cover in two good sentences →

Two top students crowned

After their half-time coronation, Homecoming Queen and King Melissa Jones and Mark Smith pose for formal portraits. Jones and Smith were both athletes as well as in the top ten percent of their class academically.

Sharing a laugh

French students Marta McFarland, Robert Underhill, Teresa Jamon and Terry Smythe react after being the first to discover a double-meaning caption in their French textbook in early October. By November, the school board had found that this caption was obscene and ordered the book removed from the school.



Three times a Dorothy

"Somewhere, over the rainbow," sings actress Monica Graves on opening night of the senior class presentation of *The Wizard of Oz*. Graves played Dorothy twice previously in elementary and middle school so she was very familiar with the part.



Come back here!

Middle linebacker Mark Sugenic catches the Wazoo High tight end in his own backfield for a 12-yard loss. Sugenic and the rest of the Tiger defense set numerous records for sacks and least yardage allowed during their championship season.



"I turned 18 for this?"

Senior Stephanie Fuller celebrates her 18th birthday by giving blood for the first time at Calhoun High's annual blood drive. "I didn't think getting stuck would bother me so much, but I had waited four years to participate and I just had to do it," Fuller said.

