

THAT YEARBOOK PODCAST

Please, Please, Please
Consider These Strategies!

OBJECTIVE

Students will analyze past spreads from their own yearbook using the "Please" checklist from the podcast to identify strong practices and areas for improvement.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Previous yearbook spreads from your publication
- "Please" checklist (included)
- Sticky notes/highlighters
- Projector for group sharing
- Season 3, Episode 1 of That Yearbook Podcast

PART 1

WATCH THE PODCAST

Discuss as a Class or in Groups:

Play a short clip from the podcast starting around 00:04:47, where Jim and Sabrina list design and journalism mistakes they saw repeatedly.

Then, display or hand out selected spreads from your own past yearbooks. Students answer:

- What's working well on this spread?
- Which checklist items are missing?
- How would you improve this spread for 2026?

PART 2

"PLEASE" CHECKLIST

Have students apply the following list to each spread they review. For any unchecked item, they must write a note explaining the issue and how they'd fix it.

- External margins are consistent and wide
- Every photo has a caption
- Spread shows scale and hierarchy
- Headline includes a subhead
- Fonts are consistent; no unnecessary stretching
- Grid layout is evident
- Text is readable and not placed over photos
- Endsheets (if present) support the theme
- Infographics list how many people were surveyed
- Body copy is an appropriate size