

BOOT CAMP

2025

Create a Yearbook Spread from Start to Finish

OBJECTIVE: Students will create a complete yearbook spread by interviewing a classmate, writing a feature story, selecting and captioning photos, designing mods and assembling everything into a polished layout.

STEP 1: INTERVIEW AND FIND THE STORY ANGLE

Goal: Conduct a partner interview and identify one strong story angle to focus your spread.

Tasks:

- Write open-ended questions
- Record your interview
- Review your notes or transcript
- Choose a focused, specific story angle
- Submit your interview notes and identified angle

Secondary Sources

- [Spread Checklist](#)
- [Yearbook Suite: The Art of the Interview and Writing: Tell Me a Story](#)
- [2024 Bootcamp: The Basics of Writing and Interviewing](#)
- [Class Starters Library](#)

STEP 2: WRITE THE STORY AND HEADLINE

Goal: Craft a compelling journalistic feature story that builds from your interview and includes a headline and subhead.

Tasks:

- Pull quotes that support your story angle
- Write a lead that hooks the reader
- Add transitions between quotes and background info
- End with a natural conclusion
- Write a short feature-style headline and a sentence-style subhead
- Submit your story draft with headline and subhead

Secondary Sources

- [Spread Checklist](#)
- [Yearbook Suite: Writing: Tell Me a Story and Completing your Copy with Captions and Headlines](#)
- [Training Video: A Simple Writing Process](#)
- [2024 Bootcamp: The Basics of Writing and Interviewing](#)
- [Class Starters Library](#)

STEP 3: CREATE MODS

Goal: Design two secondary coverage elements that add visual interest and support your story.

Tasks:

- Look for extra quotes, facts or side details from your interview
- Brainstorm at least two mod formats from the checklist (examples include Q&A, Top 5, Poll, Timeline)
- Write and format the content for each mod
- Submit your mod text and rough layout sketches

Secondary Sources

- [Spread Checklist](#)
- [Training Video: Happy Headlines, Magnificent Mods](#)
- [Class Starters Library](#)

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STEP 4: PHOTOGRAPHY AND CAPTIONS

Goal: Capture or collect photos that support the story and write full captions using the ABCD method.

Tasks:

- Take or collect at least five usable photos of your partner
- Select one dominant image and four supporting ones
- Write captions for each photo that include:
 - Attention getter
 - Basic information
 - Complementary detail
 - Direct quote
- Submit photos and finished captions

Secondary Sources

- [Spread Checklist](#)
- [Yearbook Suite: Photojournalism: Telling Stories with Images and Completing Your Copy with Captions and Headlines](#)
- [2024 Bootcamp: Photography and Composition](#)
- [Training Video: Writing Captions Right](#)
- [Class Starters Library](#)

STEP 5: BUILD THE LAYOUT

Goal: Combine all your components into a complete spread using strong visual organization.

Tasks:

- Start with your dominant photo near the center
- Add supporting photos, captions, mods and the full story
- Use a grid to align all elements
- Maintain consistent margins and intentional white space
- Adjust as needed to balance visuals and text
- Submit your digital layout draft

Secondary Sources

- [Spread Checklist](#)
- [Yearbook Suite: Understanding Why Design Matters](#)
- [Training Video: Design Fundamentals: Using Grids in Yearbook 360 – Online Design](#)
- [Training Video: Design Fundamentals: Using Grids in InDesign](#)
- [Class Starters Library](#)