

# TIMELY TIPS

## Writing

Learning from  
*Idea File* Magazine

### OBJECTIVE

Students will explore the latest issue of *Idea File* to gain new insights into yearbook, photography, design and storytelling. They will apply critical thinking and reflection skills by writing responses that show how they can improve their own yearbook.

### MATERIALS NEEDED

- Printed copy or [digital edition](#) of *Idea File* magazine
- [Google Doc assessment form](#)
- Computer to access digital documents – alternatively, the assessment doc may be printed and students can review the printed magazine

### PART 1

#### INTRODUCTION (5 MINUTES)

Begin by explaining the purpose of *Idea File*: to inspire and guide yearbook staffs with tips, features and examples from award-winning books while highlighting current trends and practical ideas.

**Ask:** Why is it important for yearbook staffs to stay up to date with resources like this magazine?

### PART 2

#### REVIEW ASSIGNMENT (25 MINUTES)

**1. Have students skim the following articles from the fall 2025 issue and select two to read thoroughly:**

- The Art of Font Pairing: Six Tips for Choosing the Perfect Yearbook Fonts (pg. 4-5)
- Why Are My Photos So...? (pg. 8-11)
- Five Simple Ideas for Better Mods (pg. 16-19)
- Think Like a Detective: Developing Curiosity in Your Students (pg. 24-27)
- Ethically Sourcing Yearbook Content (pg. 28-31)
- The Power of Color: A Guide to Eye-Catching Design (pg. 32-35)

**2. Students should choose five of the following sentence starters to write a five-sentence reflection for each of their two chosen articles.**

- This article was about...
- An interesting fact that I found was...
- I was surprised to learn that...
- A quote that stands out to me is... because...
- The most important detail in this article is... because...
- To make better yearbooks in the future, I need to remember...

### PART 3

#### REQUIRED RESPONSE "CAUGHT OUR EYE" (15 MINUTES)

Students will review the "Caught Our Eye" section (pg. 40-52), which highlights outstanding spreads from schools nationwide. They will then write five sentences responding to what stood out to them.

- The design/layout of the spread called (insert) was my favorite because...
- The story angle that I liked the most was (insert) because...
- I liked the idea of including (insert) in the yearbook because...
- My favorite photograph was (insert description) because...
- The yearbook theme that I liked the most was (insert) because...
- The adviser/editor quote that stands out to me is (insert) because...

### PART 4

#### GROUP DISCUSSION (10 MINUTES)

Bring the class together and invite volunteers to share one surprising thing they learned. Participation in the discussion can count toward class engagement. Students should turn in their written assignments afterward.

**Ask:** How could we apply one of these ideas in our own yearbook this year?