

BOOT CAMP

Building a Mod Spread

OBJECTIVE: Students will evaluate a topic and determine whether a mod spread is the best coverage choice by identifying multiple coverage angles, selecting appropriate mod package types and organizing information into a reader-friendly layout.

STEP 1: MINI-LESSON

Before watching the video, bootcamp builds on the foundational design concepts covered in the 2025 series. If your staff is new to yearbook or still learning the basics of spread design, dominant photos, headlines, captions and grid design, watch the 2025 Bootcamp videos first before completing this activity. The 2026 series focuses on selecting the best coverage approach for a topic, not teaching the basic components of a spread.

Watch the Bootcamp 2026: Mod Spread video.

After viewing, discuss the following:

Characteristics of a Mod Spread

- Made up of multiple small packages of information (mods)
- Includes an overall headline and subhead for the spread
- Each mod should have its own headline and supporting content
- Uses a variety of mod types (photo packages, quotes, surveys, by-the-numbers, statistics, mini stories, etc.)
- Organized using a strong grid and clear white space

Emphasize the key question from the video:

"What is the best way to tell this story?"

Explain that mod spreads work best when:

- There is not one dominant story driving the coverage
- Several smaller stories or experiences deserve coverage
- Information can be broken into bite-sized pieces for readers
- Different mod formats can help create storytelling variety

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STEP 2: MOD MIX CHALLENGE

Part 1: Coverage Breakdown (Small Groups)

Divide students into groups of 3-4.

Give each group a topic card such as:

- Homecoming
- New Teachers
- Summer Activities
- First Month of School
- Student Section Traditions
- Clubs and Organizations
- Campus Changes
- School Spirit

Groups must break the topic into five different mods.

For each mod, students should identify:

Mod Topic Examples	Mod Type
Dress-Up Days	Photo Package
Favorite Homecoming Memory	Quote Box
Homecoming Attendance	By the Numbers

Students do not need to complete the actual content. The focus is on organization and coverage planning.

STEP 3: CLOSURE

Conduct a quick gallery walk and each group shares:

1. Topic
2. Why a mod spread works
3. Three supporting mod ideas
4. The best mod type for those mod topics