

Our Impact

“High school journalism students earn higher grade point averages, score better on the ACT college entrance examination and demonstrate better writing and grammar skills in college, compared with students who do not have those journalism experiences.”

Success Stories

Anya’s Unexpected Portrait



Anya, a girl who spoke of her love for painting, was selected by the artist we interviewed to have her portrait drawn as a representation of the “Bay”

community of Springfield. A life size portrait of Anya is now on display at Springfield’s renowned Wood Museum. Next to it sits a handwritten note colored with the dichotomy that is her city: she fears for Springfield’s gang ridden streets, yet can still feel the beating heart of its parades.

Mystique Found Her Voice

Mystique, otherwise known as Missy, announced one afternoon, “I have an important question for Alonzo Mourning.” This was the first time Missy found her voice that summer. She astounded us by not only asking an insightful question that NBA legend Alonzo Mourning complemented her on, but by being the ONLY student in our group who did not have stage fright of the interview and instead grabbed the mic and spoke her mind.



“I BECAME A JOURNALIST TO COME AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE TO THE HEART OF THE WORLD,” HENRY LUCE, FOUNDER, LIFE MAGAZINE.

Visit: www.journal-junkies.org

Email: Joanna@journaljunkies.org

Call: (760) 703-3136

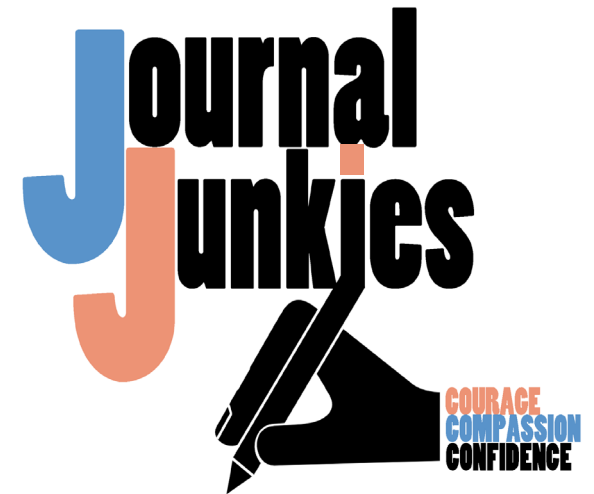
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Brochure and Logo created by David Hoffman



Mission Statement:

Journal Junkies is a nonprofit writing center based in Springfield, Massachusetts, dedicated to empowering high school youth to explore their journalistic lens. We help teenagers understand that everyone has a story to tell, and every story has a right to be heard, including their own. We are dedicated to instilling courage, compassion, and confidence in the young people we work with every day.

To Learn More

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"We are inspired by young people's voices. We think the rest of the world should hear them too."

Joanna Smiley- Founder and President



Team Journal Junkies

Founder and President, Joanna Smiley

Joanna has been working with young people for over a decade, most recently as Communications Specialist for the Yale-Bridgeport GEAR UP Partnership. Joanna is an award winning features journalist who currently writes for Masslive/The Republican in Springfield and who has also written for dozens of publications including the Hartford Courant and the Baltimore Sun.

Board of Directors Advisory Committee

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Who We Serve

We work with a wide range of high school students in Springfield, MA and its surrounding communities. Our students reflect the socioeconomic and multicultural diversity within the Western, MA region. All of our programs are 100% free to students, ensuring that those who need our services most, the students who are least likely to have a voice in their community, can participate.



Our Innovative Program

We enlist the talent and support of local teachers, college students, fellow journalists and community volunteers. At our impressive 9,000 square foot downtown writing center in the heart of Springfield's Tower Square, we offer free after-school workshops and open writing hours each week. We share our space and collaborate with The Tech Foundry, a nonprofit organization committed to working with students and residents to turn Western Massachusetts into a tech hub for the Northeast.

In our weekly after school sessions, we help our students prepare for and interview people ranging from community members to notable activists and celebrities. Students have a complete say in the kinds of stories they'd like to pursue.

How can I support Journal Junkies?

Please write a check payable to Journal Junkies. All donations are tax deductible.

- ☐ Visit our website and contribute to our donation campaign online: <http://bit.ly/1yIMXaW>.
- ☐ Volunteer with our organization! Visit our website for more information: <http://www.journal-junkies.org/volunteer/>
- ☐ Like us on Facebook and help spread our mission to your networks! <http://on.fb.me/1Hm2Yot>.

