

# Staff Applications for *The Talon*

*The Talon*, Los Altos High School's student newspaper and online news source, is looking for writers, photographers, graphic artists, videographers and webmasters to join its staff next year. If you have the talent and would like to get involved, please follow the steps outlined on this application. We look forward to your involvement with *The Talon*!

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level Next Year \_\_\_\_\_

## CIRCLE DESIRED POSITION:

Writer      Photographer      Graphic Artist/Cartoonist      Webmaster      Videographer

**IMPORTANT DIRECTIONS:** Use this form as a cover sheet for your application. Neatness counts. Please type your application and bind everything together with a paperclip. Teacher recommendations should be sealed in the attached envelope and submitted with your application. Applications are **due** to Mr. Moul in Room 409 by **12:15 ON FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2014.**

## ALL APPLICANTS:

- Please answer the following questions.
  - What are your expectations for being a staff member on *The Talon*?
  - Based on this year's paper/website, what suggestions do you have to improve *The Talon*?
  - What specific strengths would you bring as a staff member on *The Talon*?
- Please submit a recommendation from a teacher who is able to attest to your talent in the area for which you are applying. (For example, a student applying to be a staff writer should get a recommendation from an English teacher, a photographer from a photo teacher, etc.) Use the form provided.

## WRITING STAFF APPLICANTS ONLY:

- Write a 250-word mock news article on the following fictional occurrence. Make up all the important details and quotes for the article to make sense and be accurately reported. *The Talon* is looking for a realistically news-like and serious tone that emulates a professional news article. Need examples? Consult the *Talon* archives on lahstalon.org, or other professional papers.
  - The Fight Against Cancer Club held a bake sale fundraiser in the quad during lunch.
- Select one of the two following prompts and write an article no longer than 400 words. The article should demonstrate strong voice, command of the English language, and professionalism. Consult the *Talon* archives on lahstalon.org, or other professional papers for examples.
  - Write an entertainment-style review on a book, movie, restaurant or videogame of your choice.
  - Write a game day article about a high school sport of your choice. The article should focus on the key points of one game.

## PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF APPLICANTS ONLY:

- Attach a sample of your work. In addition to what you consider your best photos, include several clear action shots that you think could be printed in a newspaper.

## GRAPHIC ARTIST APPLICANTS ONLY:

- Attach samples of what you consider to be your best work. You may submit as many samples as you think accurately reflect your work and style. Submissions may be hand drawn or created digitally.
- Create and attach graphics in response to each of these two prompts. The best graphics include people.
  - Dead days have become increasingly more stressful, and teachers should better plan their curricula so that less new material is crammed into the week before finals.
  - Draw a cartoon that pokes fun at one aspect of teenage life.

## WEBMASTER APPLICANTS ONLY:

- Attach an application of your qualifications, and detail any ideas you have for improving *The Talon*'s webpage. Include URLs of sample work if possible.

## VIDEOGRAPHER APPLICANTS ONLY:

- Attach a sample of your best work. Submissions may be in DVD form, or you may include URLs.

## Talon Teacher Recommendation Form

Dear Teachers,

Please take a few moments to fill out this form on behalf of your student applying to *The Talon*. Then seal it in envelope (provided), sign across the flap, and return it to the student. **Only Mr. Moul will see the recommendations.**

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Teacher Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student's Grade in your course:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Teacher Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Course(s) taught to applicant:** \_\_\_\_\_

**How has the applicant achieved good grades in your class?** Check all that apply.

By consistent hard work       By grade consciousness       By virtue of memory       By inherent intelligence

**Compared to other students you've taught, how would you rank this applicant?**

	A notable weakness	Could be better	Okay	Better than most	Exceptional (top 10%)
Work Ethic					
Interactions with others					
Can work independently					
Quality of work					
Ability to meet deadlines					

**Overall, I recommend this student for the Talon staff (please circle one):**

**Not At All**                      **Without Enthusiasm**                      **Fairly Strongly**                      **Strongly**  
**Enthusiastically**

Please feel free to include any feedback or comments about this student. Particularly useful are comments about circumstances that might allow this student to contribute to Talon's diversity, or about the student's ability to work on an assignment and deal with problems independently.

**Comments:**