



## Activity 11.1: Captions

# Questions and answers

Using the photograph below, generate a list of 10 questions for the subject in the photo. Use open-ended questions whenever possible. (See page 35 of the *1,2,3 Student Yearbook Guide*.) Of course, don't forget to ask the 5 W's and H with your questions.

With your list of questions finalized, you are ready to locate the student in the photo and conduct your interview. For this activity, have someone in your class "star" as the student in the photo and interview that student. Take careful interview notes on the back of this sheet. Be sure to capture any "quotable quotes" word for word in case you want to use them for direct quotes.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.



[Hannah Tufts, Wakefield Country Day School, VA]



## Activity 11.2: Captions

# A big tease

A lead-in serves as a mini-headline for a caption. With a few carefully chosen words and distinctive graphic treatment, the lead-in draws readers' attention to the caption and connects it with the photo.

After reviewing your interview notes from Activity 11.1 and studying the photo below, brainstorm for 10 possible lead-ins that could be used to start your caption. Circle your favorite.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.



[Hannah Tufts, Wakefield Country Day School, VA]



## Activity 11.3: Captions

# Write to the point

Review your interview notes from Activity 11.1 and highlight key information and possible direct quotes to include in your caption. Select information that is pertinent to the photo without stating the obvious. When writing captions for the yearbook, also check your story notes for any unused information that might enhance the captions.

Using the lead-in circled as your best in Activity 11.2, write both a **summary caption** and **expanded caption** for the photo.



[Hannah Tufts, Wakefield Country Day School, VA]



## Activity 11.4: Captions

# Practice makes perfect

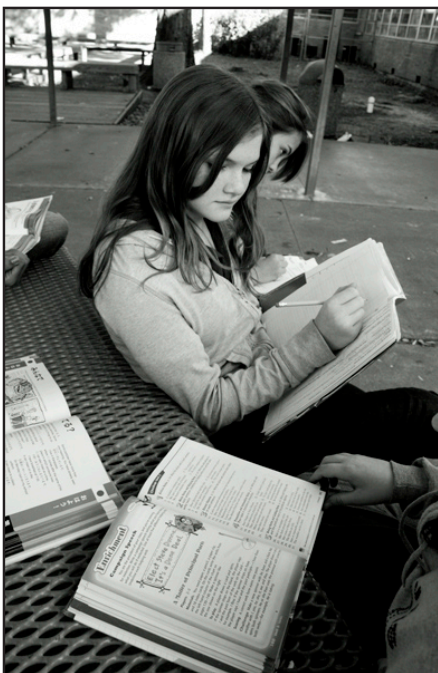
Write expanded captions for these photos using the facts provided. Use a variety of writing techniques such as common noun, adjective, adverb and participle. (See “Writing Variety” sidebar).

- Dillion Kelley is a senior.
- He is decorating for the homecoming dance which was held on Saturday, October 4 in the cafeteria.
- Kelley and five other students arrived at school at 7 a.m. on Saturday, October 4 to finish decorating for the dance that evening.
- “A lot of people got stressed out because it seemed like we would never finish, but decorating was really fun.” This quote is from Dillion Kelly.
- Rafts, beach balls and floaties supported the “Stranded in Paradise” theme.
- Dillion Kelly adds a final black palm tree as a finishing touch to the sunset scene covering the beige brick walls.
- It was raining outside.



[Mikalya Speake, Bryant High School, AR]

- Gaby Carpenter is in eighth grade.
- Gaby is one of 12 students working on an assignment during fifth period on the picnic tables in the courtyard on September 22.
- The students are in a Social Studies class taught by Mrs. Amber Romo.
- This is Gaby’s first year at the school. Over the summer, she moved with her family from Florida.
- The students were answering reading questions from their textbooks.
- “If we focus on our work, sometimes our class gets to work outside on the tables. This totally makes working on the assignment more fun.” This is a quote from Gaby Carpenter.
- It was a beautiful, sunny autumn day and Gaby Carpenter and her friends found a good spot in the shade.



[Mariel Flores, Johnston Middle School, TX]

### WRITING VARIETY

Since each spread contains several captions, the writer must vary writing techniques. Captions should avoid starting with names and instead begin with impactful words.

**Common Noun:** Time runs out as Alyson Lowe watches her team face a 62-60 loss to the Centertown Bulldogs.

**Adjective:** Sizzling August heat didn’t stop National Honor Society members Steve Cooper, Liz Wingfield and Michelle Mathews from washing more than 40 cards on a Saturday afternoon in the Central Mall parking lot.

**Adverb:** Attentively watching for cues, horn players Jon Talboy, Mark Wotton and Christy Burns rehearse.

**Participle:** Dancing outside under the stars, Brad Anderson and Molly Burns enjoy the first homecoming dance held outside in the Senior Courtyard.