

GRADUATION MATTERS

“Writing Assignment Plus” Guidelines

Must be completed by Friday, March 16th in order to be eligible for the contest prizes.

<p style="text-align: center;">Open Letter or Editorial to Next Year’s Freshmen (8th graders) for the Middle School Newsletter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can they prepare themselves for the way high school differs from middle school? • What do you wish you had known as a freshman? • What are the most important things you recommend they keep in mind to be more successful in high school and to make their time in high school more productive for their future? 	<p style="text-align: center;">Persuasive Letter to a Good Friend or Cousin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a brief introduction explaining your purpose. • Give several reasons why dropping out of school to get a job without graduating is not a good idea. • Explain your reasoning in a convincing way. • Although the letter should be addressed anonymously to “A Friend,” you can print another copy actually addressed to someone you know well.
<p style="text-align: center;">Open Letter to the Community (Parents, Employers, Neighbors & Friends) Big Horn County News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can other adults outside of school support high school students and help them graduate, especially those who are having trouble staying in school? • What sort of assistance makes a difference in the lives of teenagers who work or struggle in some other way to succeed at school? • How can employers, neighbors, friends, and family members help teenagers avoid the pressures that making it difficult to succeed in school? 	<p style="text-align: center;">Letter to Janine Pease and the HHS Staff Working to Improve the School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the most important ways in which the adults—teachers, administrators, and counselors—should change our school to do a better job of helping students stay in school? • Suggest changes in the educational experience here that would make students more likely to complete their secondary education and get their diploma?
<p style="text-align: center;">Brochure For Distribution to Teenagers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have a “Facts,” “What You Can Do,” and “Resources for Help” links to information helping a student graduate. • Your audience is a student who might be considering dropping out. • Can be a single fold “booklet” style or a two-fold (three-panel) style brochure. • PAGES or PHYSICAL (PAPER) • MUST HAVE DESIGN/ARTWORK as well as TEXT 	<p style="text-align: center;">Poster For Walls in the School Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have a slogan and persuasive information in a text box, as well as an eye-catching design. • Promote the message to “Stay in School” • Suggest some actions and resources to help students who might be considering dropping out. • PAGES or PHYSICAL (PAPER) • MUST HAVE DESIGN/ARTWORK as well as TEXT

No matter which option you choose, you must include at least three facts or pieces of information about the consequences of dropping out—as well as a simple, brief reference to the source where each item is found.

Each of the assignment options will be scored based on the quality of the writing (and for the brochure and poster, the attractiveness and effectiveness of the design).