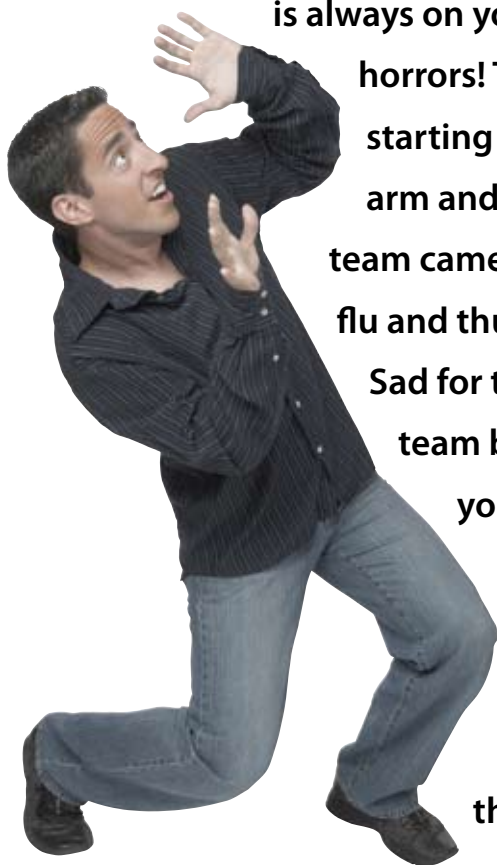


HELP!

You are close to your final deadline with only 20 spreads left to complete. But right in the middle of the winter sports you had planned a double page spread for the basketball playoffs. Your school's team had made the playoffs every year since anyone can remember and the playoff spread is always on your ladder. But

horrors! This year the starting center broke his arm and the rest of the team came down with the flu and thus...no playoffs. Sad for the basketball team but disastrous for you. What do you do with the extra two pages that are sitting smack dab in the middle of your sports section?



Don't freak out!

No matter where this happens in your book, you can still find good, strong content to fill those pages. The biggest problems usually occur in sports, clubs and academics. Student Life or People sections can really use anything at all. Let's take a look at the criteria for this type of coverage.

First, whatever you do needs to apply to the entire section. If your empty spread is in the middle of the sports section, then the content should apply to all sports. If you quickly brainstorm some content you might come up with these items that all sports have in common.

You might come up with these:

- All sport teams have captains.
- All sports team have fans.
- All sports teams have coaches.
- All sports teams (except maybe golf) have uniforms.
- All players on all sports teams have parents.

All of these would make great topics. We can envision great QuickReads that would work with all of them. Let's choose "parents" as the topics of this empty spread.

Then start brainstorming about all the ways that parents can be involved in sports, both positively and negatively. This is what we came up with:

- Parents who bring food after games/practices.
- Parents who get overly involved and berate officials or coaches.
- Parents who carpool to practices.
- Parents who travel to away games.
- Parents who are managers/scorekeepers/trainers/team doctors.
- Parents who console their kids or deal with their injuries. ►
- Parents who take pictures.

This is a wonderful way to cover things you have not covered before. In fact if you don't have the problem of an empty DPS or page, you should file these ideas for next year's book when they would make great planned pages. They deserve to be included on your original ladder.

But our problem isn't in sports—it's academics

Or yours might be in your clubs section. Want to see what we thought of? Check out the ideas we came up with at right.

Do you have an...

Empty space in clubs?

- 1) Most clubs do fund-raising. What kind do they do? Where do they spend the money?
- 2) Most clubs have officers. Why do they do it? How much work is it? Would they do it again or recommend it to others?
- 3) Most club have advisers. Why do they do it? How much work is involved? How about an infographic showing the number of years teachers have been advisers and focusing on those with longevity?
- 4) Most clubs have meetings. Are they boring? Are they interesting? How frequent are they? How long do they last? When do they meet—before school or after school?
- 5) Many clubs do community service. What kind do your clubs do? Who benefits? Why do the clubs spend time doing it?



Empty space in academics?

- 1) Many classes have labs. How about articles on dissecting frogs, cats or fetal pigs? Explosions in chem lab?
- 2) Many classes have lectures. Are they interesting? Boring? Too long? Do students learn from them? Have they ever fallen asleep?
- 3) Many classes require presentations. How do students react to having to speak in front of classes? In front of parents? Teachers?
- 4) Most classes have homework. Is there too much? Not enough? None at all? Long term papers? Take-home exams?
- 5) Most classes have tests. What kind do students like, essay or objective tests? To cram or study wisely or not at all? How do teachers feel about grading different types of tests?



Empty space in sports

- 1) All sport teams have captains. How do they get to be captains, appointed or elected? By who?
- 2) All sports team have fans. How many? Or few? Rabid or asleep? Do they dress up or make up their faces?
- 3) All sports teams have coaches. How long have they been coaching? Why do they coach?
- 4) All sports teams (except maybe golf) have uniforms. How do the players like them? Are they adequately protected? ▲

