

# The Process of the School Newspaper

BY TIFFANY SOTO

## REPORTING

### Look at our surroundings

- A current event:  
Spirit Week

### Notice a pattern

- Low numbers of participants
- People's opinions in class

Hypothesis: Themes were less popular than in past.

### Investigate

- Prepare questions
- What sources to use?

### Issues

- How are themes chosen?
- Who chooses them  
And why?
- How to improve it?

### Interviews

**Students**: Opinions on themes; their experience during Spirit Week; views from each grade

### Teachers

Baldwin: Member of committee that chooses themes

Bridget: Her advisory won for twice for best participation

Ralph: His views on why students in his advisory didn't participate more

Debbie D.: Ask for numbers on how many kids participated and which advisories won prizes for most participation each day

## WRITING

Factors in successful spirit week: Themes clearly play a huge role in the contributing success of spirit week. Perhaps the most important of them all.

Spirit week offers an opportunity for students to be creative. But if there is a lack of variety and intriguing options, students lose interest.

This year in spirit week there seemed to be less participation than in the past, and perhaps this had to do with the themes. Several juniors in the journalism class said that the themes were boring . . .

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### Tiffany Soto, writer, reflects on this process:

"The process of reporting, writing and editing a newspaper is a lot more work than I ever thought it would be. The writing, although it came naturally, forced me to adapt to the style of an actual newspaper rather than what I was already doing. Editing was just draft after draft, but I learned something new every time. All in all, it was a good experience."

### Karen Frenkel, journalist who worked with Tiffany:

"The purpose of the story was to investigate who decides on Spirit Week themes and why. The piece also probed students' opinions and gave them the opportunity to suggest themes they found more interesting. Tiffany learned interviewing techniques and how to structure her story. She thought up probing questions and returned to sources with follow questions, if they did not give her specific enough answers the first time."

## PUBLISHING

*In the newspaper:*

# UAM news

May 25, 2011 edia High

## SPRIT WEEK



[Check the full gallery](#)

***Spirit Week Themes Could Be Better - You Decide***

**By Tiffany Soto**

This year in Spirit Week there seemed to be less participation than in the past. Several Juniors in the journalism class said that the themes were boring and that the themes were more interesting when they were freshmen in 2008, like Trading Places Day and Wacky Tacky Day.

Video & audio coming soon

***On the news blog:***



ess <http://uamjournalism.wordpress.com/>

## Behind the Themes

**By Tiffany Soto**

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