

TIMELY TIPS

Design

Adding Flair to Your Portrait Pages

OBJECTIVE

Add dimension to your portrait pages with the addition of mods and sidebars. Students will brainstorm different ways to get students featured throughout this section.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Pencil/pen and paper
- Access to your design program
- Reference other yearbooks, past year's book or *Possibilities*, volume 10, to look at for inspiration
- [Portraits and Mod Coverage video](#)

PART 1

INTRODUCTION

Discussion: Start by asking, "Why do we use portrait pages in the yearbook?" Guide students to consider how these pages document the student body but can sometimes feel repetitive or lack engagement.

Show Examples: Display sample yearbook pages with effective mods and sidebars. Highlight different elements such as:

- Pie charts showing survey results (e.g., favorite school events, sports, student profiles)
- Bar graphs (e.g., participation in clubs or sports)
- Student quotes (e.g., "What's the best thing about this school?")
- Poll results (e.g., "Which teacher has the best sense of humor?")
- Lists (e.g., top trending songs, books or apps of the year)

PART 2

CRAFTING QUESTIONS

- Divide students into small groups.
- **Visualization:** Have each group create a quick mock-up or list of their ideas on large paper or sticky notes. Encourage creativity and a focus on inclusivity to ensure wide representation.

PART 3

THE INTERVIEW

Sketch Layouts: Using provided templates or design software, students sketch or digitally mock up a sample portrait page with mods and sidebars. Encourage them to:

- Place mods alongside portraits in a way that complements the overall layout.
- Use consistent color schemes and fonts to match the yearbook's theme.
- Include at least one infographic, one poll and one set of student quotes



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PART 4

CONCLUSION

- Ask your staff to repeat this exercise with students outside of their classroom the next day. Assign roles for collecting information (e.g., creating surveys, interviewing students) and drafting the final designs.