

Think First

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responsible  
journalism

## Lamp editorial policy

The Lamp is produced solely by the students of Hunterdon Central High School. All stories, ideas, and opinions are generated by the staff and do not represent the views of the adviser, teachers, administration, Board of Education, or the overall student body of Hunterdon Central High School.

The Lamp serves as an open student forum, but will not print information that disparages sex, religion, or ethnicity. The Lamp will present an unsigned editorial in each issue, which will represent the opinion of the staff. Additional editorials may be signed and will represent only the opinion of the author(s).

The Lamp staff may choose whether or not to print a letter to the editor, and letters will only be published if they arrive with a signature and a phone number.

In addition, the Lamp staff as a whole is responsible for the material which appears in the newspapers. Administrators will have a non-review role. They do not control content prior to publication, but may offer advice on the coverage of sensitive issues, or criticism after the publication of such subject matter.

We also recognize that we are bound by Board of Education policy which governs student publications and by the following policies and values:

**Accuracy:** The Lamp will report correct and truthful information to the best of its ability. If factual mistakes are made, those mistakes will be publicly acknowledged to inform Lamp readers of the incorrect information that was published.

**Balance:** The Lamp will report all subjects in depth, using multiple and diverse sources. All opinion pieces will have well-supported and well-developed arguments.

**Fairness:** The Lamp will not publish gossip in any form. In all controversial or multifaceted issues, an opportunity for all sides to respond will always be provided. Articles will not disparage any individual or set of individuals and will not infringe on rights of privacy.

**Independence:** News and opinions articles will be free to cover or comment on happenings within the school or school policy without being censored by any party. For an opinion article, the paper will not comment on an event or program that hasn't been publicly announced or covered in The Lamp.

**Objectivity:** A marked distinction will be maintained between news and opinion articles. All news articles will be free of bias and opinion, and all opinion articles will present arguments that



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Materials were produced for this Web site by the Journalism Education Association (<http://jeapressrights.org>) and the Center for Scholastic Journalism <http://jmc.kent.edu/csjs>.

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are based in fact, rather than speculation.

**Responsibility:** The Lamp is produced for the welfare of the student body with no selfish or personal agendas. The issues presented in The Lamp will be pertinent to Hunterdon Central and attempt to reflect the concerns of students and staff.