

Application to Join *The Talon*

The Talon, Los Altos High School's student journalism program, is looking for **writers, photographers, graphic artists, videographers and animators** to join its staff next year. If you would like to get involved, please follow the steps outlined on this application. You may apply for more than one position. Please stop by room 409 if you have any questions. We look forward to your involvement with *The Talon*!

General Information and Directions:

1. Application – You'll submit your application electronically. To apply, create a folder in your MVLA Google Drive called "LAST NAME, FIRST NAME - Talon Application." Put all your application materials into that folder, and when you're ready to turn it in, make Michael.Moul@mvla.net the owner of that folder.
2. Recommendation – please request a recommendation from a teacher who is able to attest to your talent in the area(s) for which you are applying. (If possible, students applying to be a writer should get a recommendation from an English teacher, a photographer from a photo teacher, etc.) Teachers will have access to a Google form that they will use to submit your recommendation.
3. Interview - We'll be conducting group interviews on Wednesday, April 19, and Thursday, April 20. We'll ask that you complete about half-an-hour's worth of work to prepare for this interview. More details will follow after we receive your application.
4. Due date – transfer ownership of your Talon Application folder to Michael Moul **by the end of lunch on Tuesday, April 18**. You'll receive an email confirming that your application was received sometime that afternoon.
5. Help with your application - Feel free to ask current members of *The Talon* to look over your application (send an email to applications@lahstalon.org to be put in contact with one). We'll also be hosting a pizza lunch on Friday, March 31, where Talon students will be available to help out and answer questions.

All applicants: Please create a Google Doc named "All Applicant Responses," put it in your Talon Application folder, and use it to answer the following questions, in addition to the position-specific prompts below. The most effective responses will be a total of 600 words or less across all questions.

1. Provide us with your cell phone number, or the best number to use to reach you. Also indicate whether you are available for an interview during lunch on Tuesday April 18, Wednesday April 19, or both.
2. What do you hope to get out of being a staff member on *The Talon*? Be specific.
3. What specific strengths would you bring as a staff member on *The Talon*?
4. Based on this year's paper, online content and daily announcements, what suggestions do you have to improve *The Talon*?

Writing staff applicants only: Create a Google Doc called "Staff Writer Responses," put it in your Talon Application folder, and use it to answer the following prompts.

1. Using the provided folder of information and interview transcriptions, write a 350-word mock news article about the following occurrence. Then, cite one more source you would talk to and compile a list of 2-4 questions you would ask them. The folder is located at lahstalon.org/avidfolder. Consult lahstalon.org or professional papers for examples.
 - a. AVID has established a mentorship program for Graham Middle Schoolers. [News]
2. Select one of the two following prompts and write an article no longer than 400 words.
 - a. Write a game day article about a high school sport of your choice, focusing on the key points of one game. [Sports]
 - b. Write a review on a book, movie, album, restaurant or video game of your choice. [Arts & Culture]

Photography staff applicants only: Create a folder called "Sample Work - Photo," put it in your Talon Application folder, and use it to submit the following samples digitally. Be sure to label which files correspond to which task.

1. Submit your best work. You may submit as many samples as you think accurately reflect your work and style.
2. Imagine you're assigned to one of the following articles. Take and submit photos you think could be printed with the article.
 - a. A review of a cafe in Downtown Los Altos. Photograph at a cafe of your choosing. [Arts & Culture]
 - b. A recap of an LAHS sporting event. Photograph a team of your choosing. [Sports]

Graphic artist staff applicants only: Create a folder called "Sample Work - Graphic Artist," put it in your Talon Application folder, and use it to submit the following samples digitally. Be sure to label which files correspond to which task.

1. Submit samples from your portfolio. You may submit as many samples as you think accurately reflect your work and style.
2. Create and submit graphics in response to both of the following prompts (can be hand drawn or digitally created).
 - a. Create a graphic or cartoon that pokes fun at one aspect of teenage life.
 - b. Create a chart, infographic or timeline that will make a complicated set of information easier to understand. Choose a set of important data (like teacher salaries) or a complicated process (like the Krebs Cycle). Consult the Talon archives at lahstalon.org or other newspapers for examples.

Videographer and Animator applicants only: Create a Google Doc called "Responses - Videographer / Animator," put it in your Talon Application folder, and use it to complete the following:

1. In about 300 words, provide an explanation of your qualifications and detail any ideas you have for improving *The Talon's* video announcements and broadcast coverage.
2. Provide samples of your work via YouTube links.