

TRITON COLLEGE BOARD POLICY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES, DISTRICT 504

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

**POLICIES FOR
THE FIFTH AVENUE JOURNAL
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**POLICY 6110
ADOPTED: 02/26/91
AMENDED: 05/18/93
AMENDED: 11/20/01
AMENDED: 08/23/05**

I. Newspaper Policy

The *Fifth Avenue Journal* is a bi-weekly student-run publication established by Triton College. It is published regularly during the Fall and Spring semesters and during the Summer session as resources and staffing allow, as approved by the Vice President of Enrollment Management & Student Affairs. The *Journal* is an educational laboratory used by Triton College students to gain journalistic experience. It also serves the entire college community by reporting the news, including college events and activities; providing a forum for comment, criticism, and creative writing; and encouraging free expression as guaranteed in the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

The Triton College community recognizes that the college's newspaper is a valuable aid in establishing and maintaining an atmosphere of free and responsible discussion. The *Journal* staff shall exercise editorial freedom and be solely responsible for its editorial and advertising content. The *Journal* shall be free of any vested interest in order to maintain its integrity as a vehicle for free inquiry and free expression.

At the same time, the editorial freedom of the *Journal* entails corollary responsibilities expected of a newspaper in a democratic society. The *Journal* staff at all times will show respect for the dignity, privacy, rights, and well-being of all individuals within the community it serves. The staff must guard against invasion of privacy, libel, and defamation of character. It is the duty of the *Journal* staff to make prompt and complete correction of its errors and to be accountable to the public it serves.

The *Journal* shall operate under the guidance of a written policy, a code of ethics published by the Society of Professional Journalists, and a faculty sponsor. The sponsor of the *Fifth Avenue Journal* should be a full- or part-time faculty member of Triton College.

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II. Ethics and Responsibilities of the Sponsor

He/she is responsible to the Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. The sponsor instructs and supervises student editors and staff on the rights, responsibilities, policies, and procedures on all aspects of producing, writing, editing, and fiscal management of the college newspaper.

A college newspaper, such as the *Journal*, is protected under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and is not subject to Supreme Court decisions regarding high school publications which list the advisor's role as that of an arm of the administration which is the publisher. The sponsor of the *Journal* promotes, initiates, and sustains institutional policies which enable Triton students to publish their newspaper free of censorship or of faculty or administrative determination of content or editorial policy.

The sponsor maintains membership in the Student Press Law Letter, College Media Advisors, Illinois Community College Journalism Association, and other professional associations.

The *Journal* sponsor also fulfills the role of publications manager, responsible for both the fiscal stability of the publication and for its production capabilities. The sponsor works with the staff to ensure strong business and advertising policies and firm accounting practices.

III. Editorial Board of the *Fifth Avenue Journal*

The editorial board of the *Journal* shall ultimately determine the contents of the newspaper. All board members must be registered students (either full-time or part-time) in good standing at Triton College.