





PV Biographs!	What's One of your New Year's Resolutions?	What's your dream job and why?	What would do if you were abducted by aliens?	What's your favorite saying?
 <p>Freshman Garret Clark</p>	I haven't really thought about it, but maybe to get my grades up as best I can.	A forest ranger or something because you would be doing good for the environment.	Ask them what their favorite color was because it would let you know about their personalities.	"It's better to ask forgiveness than permission."
 <p>Sophomore Ashley Owens</p>	To work out more.	To be a Fitness Trainer, because people need to be active more.	Ask what they wanted.	"Everything happens for a reason."
 <p>Junior Charles Breedlove</p>	Find a drummer for worship at 180.	To be a rock star, It's awesome, groupies!	I would replace myself with a cow.	"If everyday you see a group of kids walking around wearing the same colors, they're the power rangers."
 <p>Senior August Rogers</p>	Just get out of school and get ready for college.	Child Psychologist. Growing up, I had a really hard life. If I could make one child's life better, that'd be enough for me. Plus, I really love kids. They make me happy.	Oh, my [gosh], I'd have so much fun. I'd teach them tricks and they'd teach me some new tricks. Well, first, I'd have to wait till I met them. My tricks might offend them. I'd ride in space ships and shoot stars. Oh, my [gosh], I'd have so much fun.	"Forever happiness."

## Bad Society in Need of Good Role Models

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"Today's society is going downhill." How many times have you heard that?

Many people today feel that morals and values have declined with each generation. I believe this is due to the rise of celebrity culture and weakened family bonds. Many of today's youth are choosing poor role models.

"Monkey see, monkey do." "Do as I say and not as I do." These sayings describe two ways of how parents teach their children: by example and by preaching. Young children usually learn by the "monkey see, monkey do" method.

Parents are considered a child's first two teachers. Children do not have prior knowledge of how to act or behave and will seek to imitate by watching how their mother, father, or another family member behave and will, in turn, behave in the same way. In this way many kids are picking up bad behavior from their parents.

As well as picking up negative behavior from their parents, many kids are being criticized too quickly for their actions instead of being helped to navigate the challenges in life. Its easier to criticize then it is to intervene which makes more kids striving for their parent's acceptance and not getting the positive activity they need. This creates an unbalanced youth who seeks positive reinforcement elsewhere.

Discipline is also a confusing area in family life. For example, a child hits their sibling and his or her parent tells says you are not to hit someone else, and are then spanked by his or her parent. This creates a confusing image for the child because he or she were told not to hit, and are then hit by his or her parent. In reaction to this hypocritical image, the child is frustrated and upset.

With more and more weakened

family bonds, many kids seek their role model elsewhere and often pick a celebrity role model to idolize and follow. However, most celebrities make poor role models due to many stupid choices they make.

Many celebrities indulge in some poor behavior, such as getting drunk, doing drugs, starving themselves so they have the "ideal" body, not taking marriage seriously, and getting pregnant at a young age. That's only the tip of the iceberg. The media does little to help the situation, often posting pictures of celebrities walking together out of a bar, clearly intoxicated, or blowing up a story about a celebrity cheating on their spouse. Today's society seems to relish these stories of celebrities acting scandalous and you have to wonder why when you never hear about good people doing good things.

Kids see these images or hear these stories and register it as an okay thing to do since the celebrities do it. This ends up creating more and more people with a lack of morals and values.

Honestly, the youth pick up on their surroundings, their parents, and the things the media projects on the T.V. If we can't pick our parents as role models then we're left to pick role models elsewhere and the good role models that exist are, more often than not, obscured by immoral celebrity idiots and people just doing bad things.

Society needs to take responsibility and own up. Instead of wondering why society has lost its sense of moral values, maybe its time to do something about it. Parents need to be better role models and teach their children better. The media needs to stop focusing its attention on poor celebrity models. Instead, they need to put to light the good people that exist out there. Parents and celebrities are not entirely to blame either. Kids and teens need to be wiser on how we choose our role models.

## Top 5 Headlines of 2008

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### 5. The Dark Knight

Everyone's familiar with the story of Batman: disguised millionaire Bruce Wayne with his trusty sidekick Dick Grayson out to save the world from evil foes, such as the Penguin and the Joker.

Yet the timeless cartoon received its fair share of fame this year in the cinema business. On July 18, 2008, *The Dark Knight*, starring Christian Bale as the "human bat" and Heath Ledger as his archnemesis the Joker, opened in a record-breaking 4,366 theaters across the nation, thus receiving \$18.5 million at the midnight opening, and \$155.83 million after its first weekend, breaking the record previously set by *Spiderman 3* with \$151 million.

*The Dark Knight* brings to the audience the familiar tale of Batman with legendary portrayals of characters not soon forgotten. Ledger received a Golden Globe award in January 2009 for Supporting Actor for his role. Unfortunately, Ledger passed away exactly a year before, due to an accidental overdose, leaving director Christopher Nolan to accept his Golden Globe on his behalf.

### 4. Casey and Caylee Anthony

The case is common. Some may find it insignificant, but for many, it has plagued their hearts and minds. In the summer of 2008, two-year-old Caylee Anthony goes missing, the report filed by her grandmother Cindy Anthony.

As 23-year-old mother Casey Anthony fretted over the whereabouts of her missing toddler, she was put under attack of the nation. Blogs on the Internet could be found calling Casey a "killer," and demanding that she be put in jail for life. Many believed that she had killed her daughter due to outrageous behavior exhibited throughout the case.

On December 11, skeletal remains of a toddler girl were found

near Casey and Caylee Anthony's home. The remains were then taken to a lab for analysis, releasing a week later that the remains were indeed those of two-year-old Caylee Anthony. Since no soft tissue was left on the head of Caylee, the exact cause of death is uncertain, but Orange County Medical Examiner Dr. Jan Garavaglia is certain that it was at least homicide.

As of now, Florida has yet to decide upon a sentence.

### 3. Gas and Oil Prices

Throughout the year of 2008, prices at the gas pump reached record highs, averaging \$3.72 dollars a gallon. In March 2003, prices at the pump averaged \$1.73. This is a \$1.99 increase in just a little over five years.

Yet, near the end of the year, gas prices took an interesting turn... downward. Gas prices were now averaging at just below the two-dollar range. In only a month, gas prices had dropped 21.4%.

This was due mainly in part to decreasing-value of crude oil imported from various foreign countries, and a weakening global economy. Barrels of crude oil are now costing \$48.18 when in May 2008, they cost \$104.

However, though prices have dropped, the values have metaphorically been on a roller coaster ride. Prices have now risen twelve cents since its first decline.

### 2. Bailout Plan

For months, students in various classes ranging from American government class to music class could be heard discussing the bailout plan.

The bailout plan calls for \$700 billion dollars to help "bail out" various companies, such as AIG, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, who have gone into debt, due to poor spending habits.

The money will not be used only for insurance companies, but will also be used to revive the housing market, whose rates have

plummeted. Currently, Congress is discussing whether or not to bail out three major automobile companies, including General Motors, Ford and Chrysler.

According to *The New York Times*, the \$700 billion used for the refinancing will be coming out of the taxpayer's pocket, a thought that many representatives and senators had to keep in mind during the election campaign.

With the United States' economy in a current recession, the government has had to keep in mind the various aspects that this plan will affect.

"Hopefully, it will provide the needed economic stimulus to get both the housing and auto industries back on their feet," said American government teacher James Burke. "Only time can tell [if it is a good or bad idea]."

### 1. 2008 Presidential Election

It was 2008, the year of many candidates. Not only were the people of the United States electing a president, but state representatives and senators in our nation's capital.

Yet many would call the 2008 presidential election historic, not because another president was being elected, but the minorities running for President this year.

On the Republican ticket, 72-year-old John McCain was running with Alaska governor Sarah Palin. Palin, however, was not the only woman who ran for a presidential office this year.

Before achieving the Democratic nomination, Senator Barack Obama was pitted against Senator Hillary Clinton, a former First Lady. After months of battling, Obama was nominated as the Democratic presidential candidate.

On November 8, the American people were gathered about the TV, wanting to know who would become the 44th President of the United States. And with 365 electoral votes, Barack Hussein Obama was elected to the presidential office.