

## FORMAL AND INFORMAL

How good are you at recognizing words and expressions that help make writing formal or informal? How formal or informal is each of the following passages? What effect does it have on the reader, and how is the effect achieved? (Point out and discuss features in each passage.)

A. Mervin Field, founder of the California Poll, is a throwback to another era. In a laid-back state where people get off on beach parties and starlets, he keeps dishing out his poll results and cranky analyses. For many years, he has been top watchdog on current trends. He has survived some potentially disastrous scrapes. His phone rings off the hook at election time when columnists want scuttlebutt, say, on the leanings of California's pot of 345 delegates for the Democratic nomination. He has had his share of flops and triumphs, as well as kudos and brickbats from clients and rivals alike.

List half a dozen words or expressions that help make this passage **informal**. (Provide a more formal substitute in parentheses.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

B. A good marching band greatly enhances an impressive game. Last year, we didn't have a band because student government believed it was an extra expense of no real benefit except to the band itself. Nonsense. I think they were afraid to allocate money for sheer fun. This is not to say we should not concern ourselves with the many problems facing us here at school and out in the public. They are our foremost concerns. But we should not be afraid to provide for our own enjoyment, which should also be a part of our lives. Only that way can we keep from becoming a breed of brooders and go on to face the world.

