Sara’s comments on the first draft:

REPORTING

It’s coming along. Really glad you talked to the mom. I’m sure that was not easy. Still a lot left to do. First, have you obtained the public records about this incident? This is extremely important. We cannot publish this story without getting these documents. The record should include lots of interesting information that is relevant for your story, and it provides documentation of what happened. If you aren’t sure how to obtain the documents, let me know.

I think we do need to represent the father somehow. Since he’s dead, speaking to other family members or friends would help. The public records will also help with this.

I’d also like to feel like I know LySaundra better. Let us see her in action. What is she like? What does she do with her time? Talk about her volunteer work and advocacy.

I would like to hear from LySaundra’s friends (past and present) about how she has dealt with this situation. Who has seen her go through this tranformation?

DATA

Please add data about domestic violence. Please also add an expert source on domestic violence.

WRITING

Play with different ideas for story structure - see notes below. Also, separately, write a chronology of LySaundra’s life, including the incident with her father. Include as many details as you can get. Use this as background for your main story.

Include more details on exactly what happened. This is not the time to gloss over things. Write about the violence. It’s real. Tell readers what it’s really like.

**Reporter byline**: Hilary Weaver

**Reporter contact info**: Phone: 573-353-9279

**Assigned word count: 500-600 vs. ACW**: 850

**Print Hed & Dek (give at least 3):**

Hed: Tearing down the Walls

Dek: A student’s journey from victim to advocate

Hed: Defining Grace

Dek: Lysaundra Campbell’s journey of finding God through pain

Hed: Going back to Nineva

Dek: What it took to find grace in the pain of domestic violence

**Web Hed & Dek (give 1)**:

Hurt no More

The story of one student’s escape from pain to peace

**Story Links:** (at least 3 that could be embedded into story on website)

<http://www.impactconference.org/>

<http://rsvp.missouri.edu/>

<http://www.truenorthofcolumbia.org/>

**Suggested Tweet**:

Lysaundra Campbell, local volunteer at True North Shelter and peer advocate at Mizzou’s RSVP center, shares her story of #challenge, of #faith and of #forgiveness.

**Suggested Facebook post**:

LySaundra Campbell shares her story of what it meant to forgive and faith means to her. Now this Mizzou senior uses the lesson from her own struggles to show others that domestic violence cannot take away one’s happiness and purpose.

**Suggested Web Excerpt**:

LySaundra Campbell’s childhood world was rocked when her father abused her mother and left her questioning why. She shares her journey of how her faith in God led her to forgive him and find peace with herself.

**Two versions of a lede**:

**Lede 1:**

In the fall of 2010, LySaundra Campbellcried *hard* for the first time in eight years.

As she was leaning against the shoulder of a stranger at the [Impact National Conference](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.impactconference.org%2F&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNEWBeOdqYMe1EZ6q9k35JhCM1OhoQ) in Atlanta GA, she cried out six years of pain and feelings of betrayal toward a father she loved. What she found was peace from the aftermath of domestic violence and the desire to help others find it, too.

**Lede 2:**

All LySaundra Campbell remembers about April 26, 2002 is that her father almost took her mother away from her world after years of abuse. As a peer advocate at the [Rape and Sexual Violence Prevention Center](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Frsvp.missouri.edu%2F&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNHyY8fRmKGsB105pg1oxqJh1tRnZA) and a volunteer at [True North Shelter](http://www.truenorthofcolumbia.org/), Campbell constantly uses her own story for reference when helping other victims of abuse.

Both of these ledes seem a bit abrupt - I would unpack the details here a bit before launching into the story. Write a separate nut graf about how she has overcome all this to become an exemplary student - and talk about domestic violence stats.

You can also try a lede that starts with the hostage incident.

**Body of the story**:

Campbell says she spent much of her childhood building walls against the hurt that her father, Nathan, instilled when he abused her mother. Now as a 22-year-old senior at Mizzou, she says she and God are working on tearing them down.

“I don’t think I understood grace until I was 20,” she says. Once I did, I realized it didn’t matter what happened; I coud come back from anything.”

Campbell became familiar with the concept of abuse and its effect on families when she was just in the second grade. In 1999, after several violent disputes between her parents, Campbell’s mother Saundra, moved Campbell, her sister and her brother to her home state of Virginia . Campbell says all she understood at the time was that her mother had split up their family. More here on the background of her family; where were they living, how did her parents meet, what did they do, what was the family like? How did the abuse start and how did it progress? Did LySaundra notice it when she was a kid? Was it hidden or overt?

“I didn’t really know what was going on, but at the same time I did want the image of a two-parent home,” she says. “I didn’t want anyone to look at my life and think anything was different.”

~~Saundra and Nathan, who had recently resigned as a police officer at the Kansas City Police Department, decided to make things work for their family, but Saundra says the abuse never stopped.~~

Saundra and Nathan, a police officer at the Kansas City Police Department we need to verify this; the police records may be able to confirm decided to make things work for their family, but Saundra says the emotional and physical abuse never stopped.

“I’d come to work where did she work? with my eyes red from crying or staying up late,” she says. “People at work knew and said, ‘You’ve got to do something about it.’ ”

Then, in April of 2002, after several fights, Saundra took her children to her brother and sister-in laws where her husband arrived a few days later and demanded she go home with him. She says she heard him come through the door as she was doing laundry in the basement and knew something wasn’t normal. What does that mean? When he came into view, she saw that he had shotgun.

“I came to the top of the stairs and he said, ‘Bitch, you’re gonna die tonight,’” she says.

From a bedroom upstairs, Campbell what age was she? called the police to their home in the same neighborhood, where Nathan held Saundra hostage. She says the irony of making call on her own father, who at the time aspired to regain a job with the police force, still strikes her today.

“He taught me as a little kid that if something goes wrong, you call the cops,” she says.

Saundra says the twelve hours of the hostage incident felt like days. What happened in this time?

“I had a feeling I was going to die, like he told me,” Saundra says. “Whatever he wanted to hear, I told him.” What does this mean?

She says that at about 3 or 4 a.m., Nathan complied with the police what does that mean? and she and the children stayed one night at a local shelter. And then what? Explain what happened to the mom and kids and to the father.

Thinking back on that experience, Campbell only remembers feeling scared, and then angry.

“Initially, I had the deepest hate for him you could have for somebody,” she says. “I didn’t want anything to do with him.”

She remembers receiving a birthday card from her father in September 2002 what’s the significance of this date? how old was she then? but says she did not speak to him until November. Then, on December 27, she received the news that her father had hanged himself in jail. In the days that followed, mixed messages from relatives continued.

“I didn’t feel guilt, but people kept saying, ‘This isn’t your fault.’ It made me think, “Wait, is it my fault?”

Although Campbell went on to be a successful and motivated student, she says she continued to erect barriers against her emotions, citing the youth conference in Atlanta **(if we go with lede one or something similar)** as the first time since 2002 she let tears fall about anything involving her father. what was the conference about?

At the time, Campbell thought of church as a weekly required activity, but it wasn’t until getting involved with Christian groups on campus that she began to accept faith as a positive thing in her life. She says she thinks she had difficulty seeing God as a father figure when her own dad had left her with so much sorrow.

“I saw him God? as this big, majestic being that could strike you down at any moment,” she says. “Now it makes sense with how I was raised. I saw the domineering God and not the trusting God,” she says.

**INSERT QUOTES WITH ELYSE GALE, LYSAUNDRA’S CHRISTIAN MENTOR ON CAMPUS**

**NEED MORE SOLID QUOTES ON HOW THIS LED TO HER FORGIVING HER FATHER**

When people ask her what it means to work with other victims of abuse, Campbell often refers to a conversation with a young girl at True North. explain what this is and her work there. The girl told her she thought it was OK for boys to tease her because her “daddy hurt her mommy.”

“I told her that if a guy is always being mean to you, then that’s not right. He should be treating you like a queen. She got really excited and said, ‘Really? Like a *queen*?’ ”

Saundra says watching her daughter council other victims of abuse shows her that it is possible to overcome her own challenges. too many her’s here - try to be clear which her you’re speaking of

“She can overcome anything,” she says. “It’s very good that she can reach out and talk to others. They can see that she’s been there before and it’s going to be O.K.”

**DON’T WANT TO END WITH A QUOTE. NEED TO SHORE UP SOURCES AND FIND A BETTER FOCUS TO END WITH.**

**Sidebar or Info Box if needed**:

**Sources**: Make sure you include their Facebook pages, Twitter handles, websites etc. in addition to phone and email. Include when, where and how you interviewed the person. (By phone, email, in person; at the office, home, etc.)

**LySaundra Campbell:**

Phone: 816-812-5193

Email: [ljckd2@mail.missouri.edu](mailto:ljckd2@mail.missouri.edu)

**Facebook**: https://www.facebook.com/lysaundrajanee?fref=ts

Interviewed source in person twice on Fri., March 8

and Sat., March 9

**Saundra Campbell**

**Phone:** 816-651-4458

**Elyse Cagle (LySaundra’s mentor and friend)**

[**elysecagle@gmail.com**](mailto:elysecagle@gmail.com)

**Nathan Campbell, Jr.**

Phone: 816-457-4192

**Gerald Buckner (friend of Nathan Sr.)**

Phone: 816-935-4592

**Danica Wolf (RSVP coodinator)**

Phone: [wolfds@missouri.edu](mailto:wolfds@missouri.edu)

**Documents as Sources**: (links or copies of data, reports, records; must include statistical support for your story)

<http://www.scientificjournals.org/journals2009/articles/1420.pdf>

http://www.nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/ANAMarketplace/ANAPeriodicals/OJIN/TableofContents/Volume72002/No1Jan2002/DomesticViolenceandCriminalJustice.html

**Media Support**: (news articles on your general topic)

RECENT: http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/13/us/politics/senate-votes-to-expand-domestic-violence-act.html?\_r=0

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN KANSAS CITY, MO AREA:

http://www.kansascity.com/2012/12/03/3947220/all-too-often-domestic-violence.html