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Hurricane Sandy: Point of View

Read “Hurricane Sandy: Your aftermath stories” and “Giving Thanks by Giving Back” and answer the following questions.

Which article is a firsthand account? How can you tell?

What is the focus of the secondhand account? Explain how you know.

Hurricane Sandy: Author's Main Point

Read "Hurricane Sandy: Your aftermath stories," "Giving Thanks by Giving Back,".

What is the author's main point in "Giving Thanks by Giving Back"?

Is this the same or different from the author's main point in "Hurricane Sandy: Your Aftermath Stories"?

Choose one word that describes each author. Tell why you chose it. Use specific words from each article to support the words you chose.

What word described the author?	What word described the author?
Why did you choose it?	Why did you choose it?
What words made you think this?	What words made you think this?

from **Hurricane Sandy: Your aftermath stories**

The aftermath of Hurricane Sandy continues to affect the US East Coast.

By Daphay Sanchez, Staten Island

Storm Sandy took us by surprise. We didn't expect to be hit hard and we didn't evacuate. When we realised our yard was flooded and more water was coming, it was too late to move.



We had to climb on top of our roof to get away from the water as it started entering the house.

The power went off, it was pitch-dark and we were scared. We had to tie ourselves to each other, because the winds were very strong.

I had my laptop with me and kept posting cries for help. We stayed on the roof for eight hours before we were rescued.

It was a terrible night. Many people in our neighborhood lost their lives.

Many houses are completely shattered. Ours, although hit quite badly, has remained pretty much intact. Our neighbor's roof was blown away, for example.

We keep going back, taking many photos - a requirement by the insurance company.

We expect them to come at some point and make an assessment of the damage, then hopefully, cover our losses. It's the beginning of a long process.

None of our possessions can be salvaged. I am particularly upset that my university projects are lost. That means more work for me and I was due to graduate in December.



We are now staying at a friends' house in Brooklyn. We won't be able to return to our house for months. So we will have to move from one friend's house to another.

There is no information about the support available for victims of this storm. All we hear is - go to the evacuation shelters.

But there isn't a long-term plan and communication has been handled very badly. We haven't heard anything concrete from our mayor - I think he is in hibernation.

A few days ago I was extremely upset. Now I am grateful me and my family are alive.

It is important to remember that there are still people without food, without shelter, without gas in this cold weather. It is a truly horrible time for New York.

from BBC News <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-20193482>

Giving Thanks by Giving Back

South Carolina sisters collect donations for Sandy relief

By Thayer Loose | January 29, 2013

When Hurricane Sandy hit the Northeast, sisters Britney and Brianna Gallo watched news coverage of the storm from their home in South Carolina. They were bothered by the amount of destruction they saw. And news about the storm hit close to home – Britney and Brianna were born in the area and have family who still live in New Jersey.



After the storm, the sisters started hearing stories about their family members' experience. For example, they learned that their aunt and cousins lost electricity for more than 10 days. Then there was the massive amount of destruction.

Britney and Brianna knew they had to help. So they spent their Thanksgiving break on Staten Island, giving back to the area that gave them life.

Brianna, a ninth grader at North Augusta High School, approached her faculty sponsor for Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA). Brianna's original idea was to set up a fundraiser through her school to raise money for hurricane relief. But the school district's policies would not allow them to collect monetary donations.



Instead, Brianna's teacher Stephanie Ramey suggested they find people to donate jeans and blankets. So Brianna and her club set to work making posters and announcements getting students and faculty to pitch in and help.

Britney, a seventh grader at Paul Knox Middle School, also wanted to help collect goods for the hurricane relief effort. She approached her Beta Club sponsor about gathering relief donations from her school. Together, they decided to collect cleaning supplies and diapers.

In just one and half weeks, the Gallos collected two full pick-up trucks' worth of goods. They packed them onto a 5-foot-by-8-foot trailer and began their 12-hour journey to the devastated Northeast.

The Gallos had heard reports that Staten Island was the "forgotten borough," Brianna noted. So the family decided to land there.

The loud clamber of jackhammers greeted the Gallos, when they arrived. "It was shocking! A lot of the places we used to go to were gone," explained Britney.

"What shocked us though the most was the awful smell!" Britney added.



The unexpected, strong odor of mildew combined with large amounts of irritating dust was so intense that the family had to cut short their time on Staten Island since both Gallo daughters suffer from asthma.

Despite the dangerous conditions, the Gallo's immediately began to look for those who needed their South Carolina help.

"We stopped in the middle of the road where we saw people sorting through all kinds of goods," Mrs. Gallo explained.

There, the family met up with the Sandy Rebuild Staten Island – Yellow Team who helped them distribute some of their donated items. A former South Carolina church associate also turned up nearby and happily accepted the clothing-related items.

The Gallos know that help is

still needed. "Just don't

forget," they all agreed.

The family continues to keep in touch with the contacts they made on Staten Island. They plan to return in a few months as a family to pitch in to rebuild.

Mrs. Gallo is extremely proud of her daughters' efforts. "They have a good heart! They are great girls!"



From Scholastic News: Kids Press Corps
<http://www.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=3757912>