

Advanced Reporting (JOU 3000)

News Story Grade Sheet

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LEAD ELEMENTS – Writer engages readers, stresses a news angle, establishes the main focus, addresses a primary conflict and reveals the story’s relevance in the opening graphs by relying on precise, active language.

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INFORMATION – The reporter has researched the topic thoroughly by citing key documents, referencing essential information from noteworthy news sources, and observing significant details in order to offer readers more than general details and surface information. Specific details, data, anecdotes and facts enable readers to better understand news stories so use these frequently to explain, illustrate, show, or visualize statements and ideas.

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CONTEXT – Reporter inserts significant information that fully explains events, actions and issues. The writer especially answers the why and the how, and typically addresses what's next.

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QUOTES – Reporter offers direct quotes that are colorful, authoritative, flavorful and insightful, not general, vague, bland and factual. Reporter also inserts indirect quotes, as needed, to attribute essential information.

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_____ **PRIMARY SOURCES** – The story includes perspective from a wide range of primary and expert sources (people) to more fully explain the significance of an event, issue or trend.

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GRAMMAR/AP STYLE – This reporter follows all rules regarding names, numbers, titles and addresses for AP Style. Plus, the story is free of errors in grammar, punctuation, spelling. Each error reduces the overall grade by 1 point. Misspelling a person’s name (even once) results in a ‘0’ for this category.

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ACCURACY – All information is accurate, including statistics, facts, names, titles and other details. Students who fabricate or plagiarize will earn a '0' for the assignment and will face disciplinary action from the university.

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WRITING STYLE – The writer uses a variety of sentence structures, and relies on vivid verbs, precise word choices, concrete language, originality, and precise language while using third-person narration. The writer has avoided clichés, jargon and commentary.

FORMAT – The story is submitted to the proper location and in the right format. Submit material in this order: grade sheet, typed story, two-page reflective essay (w/contact info), and a copy of the published story (or a story signed by the Warbler EIC). Staple packet. Story and reflection need to be typed, double-spaced in 12-point Times New Roman with paragraphs indented. Put your name in upper left corner along with name of the assignment. Failure to *fulfill every single requirement* cited here (and further outlined in the syllabus) will result in a '0' for this category.