

The Journalistic Article

“We don't go into journalism to be popular. It is our job to seek the truth and put constant pressure on our leaders until we get answers.”

--- Helen Thomas, Journalist & White House Correspondent

Driving Question:

- How can we tell informative, relevant news stories to an audience while using proper journalistic form and maintaining journalistic neutrality?
- What's the difference between a “breaking news” and a “feature news” article?

Overview:

Students will find a current, interesting issue to investigate and report on in the Hawthorne/El Segundo community. The article will be written from a neutral stand point, and should be merely to inform. Students will be taking on the role of an investigative journalist, and will have to find two credible sources to interview about the topic at hand. Students will also need to refer to other news sources in order to research background information. This issue may or may not be related to the subject of the students' individual Senior Projects.

Your goal is to write a 300-500 word news article inspired by a current, significant event of your choosing. It can be in the style of either a “Breaking News” piece, or a “Feature News” piece. The article should be designed to look like it would belong in a newspaper or magazine, including all of the relevant parts of an article and using appropriate formatting.

See “Project 4: Writing for Journalism” resources page for formatting resources...

Requirements:

Student	Breaking News / Feature News Article English 12 :: P2/4 :: <i>Stoll</i>
<i>Your article should have included the following components; any missing components have been bolded</i>	
<p>Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quotations from at least 2 relevant, primary, human sources ○ An eye-catching headline ○ A bibliography including 5 sources minimum ○ Article must be between 300 and 500 words ○ Strong Lead Paragraph answering all 5 W's <p style="text-align: right;">Score for CONTENT: __</p>	<p>Form:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maintains journalistic neutrality ○ Inclusion of a relevant photo or visual ○ Strong usage of Inverted Pyramid structure ○ Relevant and complete use of explanation, amplification, and background information ○ Implementation of the 8 AP Style Rules <p style="text-align: right;">Score for FORM: __</p>
<p>NOTES:</p>	

Due Date: 11:59pm on Friday, 3/16 (on TurnItIn.com)

Answer these prompts to help you structure your article:

What event are you going to write about in your article?

List the five W's of your event:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

Write down three headlines that you could use for your article.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

What are five facts and/or interview sources that you hope to explore/include?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____