

**5N - Newspaper Story Writing - (28 points possible)**

*The Critique Sheet is used for feedback to the contestant.  
 High marks do not necessarily mean an award will be given.*

<b>Strengths:</b>
<b>Suggestions:</b>

<b>Content/Coverage</b> Clear, interesting, central focus/angle Illustrates mastery of journalistic writing: accuracy, balance, clarity/conciseness, objectivity & timeliness Effectively incorporates source material: background information; relevant, colorful quotes Good use of specific detail and description rather than generalizations	4	3	2	1	0
<b>Organization</b> Inverted pyramid used A clear, strong angle governs story structure, and it progresses in logical order Skillfully transitions between ideas Employs concise, clear paragraphs addressing one point Uses quotations liberally without stating the obvious/repeating info; attributes info correctly Fits format of a news story	4	3	2	1	0
<b>Conventions</b> Follows AP style Contains few convention errors Adheres to accepted legal and ethical journalistic practices	4	3	2	1	0
<b>Word Choice</b> Uses precise language; avoids cliches; refrains from redundancy Uses techniques such as imagery and/or figurative language, if appropriate Eliminates unnecessary wordiness Uses dynamic, specific verbs and avoids passive verbs/voice	4	3	2	1	0
<b>Sentence Fluency</b> Contains sentences that are concise and well-built Variety of sentence beginnings; natural rhythm, cadence and flow Natural rhythm, cadence, and flow	4	3	2	1	0
<b>Voice</b> Tone is objective and fair Writing connects directly with the reader, showing an awareness of audience and purpose Writing shows and does not tell Writer captures the voice of those interviewed Writing evokes an emotional response	4	3	2	1	0
<b>Length</b> Approximately 250-300 words	4	3	2	1	0

4 = excellent 3 = good 2 = average 1 = poor 0 = element is missing or does not meet the criteria for judging
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