

5N - Newspaper Story Writing - (40 points possible)

The Critique Sheet is used for feedback to the contestant.

Score of 30/40 needed to qualify for Finals. Still, only top scorer from each Regional advances.

Strengths:
Suggestions:

Headline/Subhead Headline creatively captures the interest of the reader. Coordinating subhead introduces key element(s) of the story.	4	3	2	1	0
Lead Compelling lead hooks the reader.	4	3	2	1	0
Angle Clear, interesting, central focus/angle used consistently throughout the story.	4	3	2	1	0
Content Focus on students, activity; entry provides a sense of time and place. Effectively incorporates source material and background information with relevant, colorful quotes.	4	3	2	1	0
Organization Skillfully transitions between ideas. Uses quotations liberally without stating the obvious/repeating info; attributes info correctly.	4	3	2	1	0
Conventions Demonstrates great spelling, subject/verb agreement, tense. Employs concise, clear paragraphs with indentation before every direct quote.	4	3	2	1	0
Word Choice Uses precise language and eliminates unnecessary wordiness. Refrains from redundancy. Uses techniques such as imagery and/or figurative language, if appropriate. Avoids cliches.	4	3	2	1	0
Sentence Fluency Contains sentences that are concise and well-built. Variety of sentence beginnings. Natural rhythm, cadence, and flow where the quotes presented drive the story.	4	3	2	1	0
Voice Outside of direct quotes, writing avoids passive verbs: is, am, are, was, were, be, being, been . It instead displays dynamic, specific verbs.	4	3	2	1	0
Length Approximately 250-300 words - however, do not spend your valuable writing time counting 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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