

Honors Journalism

draft due: Nov. 2; final due: Nov. 6

The assignment

Write an 500 word (minimum) news article about a topic relevant to your audience. This news article should be written using standard journalism conventions including short paragraphs, clear language and AP style.

Things to remember when writing your news article

- Be concise
- Be accurate
- Be sure to use dates correctly
- Use strong verbs
- Always ask yourself why would your reader care
- Don't editorialize (include your opinion)
- Use at least three sources, one of whom should be an expert source (Internet sources do not count)
- Use quotes and capture details judiciously

Things to avoid when writing your news article

- Including first person
- Including your opinion (editorializing)
- Writing as if it were a research paper
- A conclusion

Assessment

Your grade for this assignment will be based on the following criteria

Word count: 10 points

Journalistic grammar/conventions: 30 points

News writing style as detailed above (pay special attention to not using first person and not including your opinion): 50 points

Compelling, relevant lead: 10 points

Well-organized body: 10 points

Logical, interesting ending (not a conclusion): 10 points

