

# Honors Journalism

COLUMN ASSIGNMENT SHEET  
draft due: Feb. 10 final due: Feb. 14

## The assignment

Write a 500-800 word column about a topic relevant to your audience. These should be written using standard journalism conventions including short paragraphs, clear language and AP style. A finished version is due to turnitin.com and shared with me as a Google Doc by midnight, Feb. 14.

## Things to remember when writing your column or editorial

- Write tightly
- Vary your sentence structure
- Match your tone to your topic
- Don't allow style to overcome substance
- Columns can use "I" but don't have to. Overuse of first person can be a problem.
- Good columnists are still good reporters
- Good columns have a point
- Sensory and emotional detail are a journalist's friend: recreate scenes, capture details and use quotes and dialogue judiciously if appropriate

## Things to avoid when writing your column/editorial story

- Attacking people rather than issues
- Rambling
- Ranting
- Jumping on the bandwagon
- Writing about insignificant topics

## Assessment

Your grade for this assignment will be based on the following criteria (each writing will be a separate grade)

Word count: 10 points

Journalistic grammar/conventions: 30 points

Column style as detailed above: 50 points

Compelling, relevant lead: 10 points

Well-organized body: 10 points

Logical, interesting ending: 10 points

