

# Honors Journalism mid-term study guide

## Part 1: objective questions over the book/court cases/AP style, 100 questions done in class

### Chapter 1

1. Interest and importance are not always synonymous. What does this mean? Be able to give an example.
2. What is the difference between hard news and soft news? Be able to give an example of each.
3. Essentially, what is the job of a reporter?
4. Why is fact checking so important to journalistic writing?
5. Be able to define and give examples of the following news elements:
  - a. Timeliness
  - b. Proximity
  - c. Consequence
  - d. Prominence
  - e. Oddity
  - f. Conflict
6. Why is curiosity among a journalist's most important traits?

### Chapter 2

1. What is the difference between primary and secondary sources?
2. What is a beat system?
3. What is the difference between open and close-ended questions? Why are open-ended questions superior when trying to get good quotes?
4. Be able to list five of the interview tips listed on page 24
5. Be able to list five things you shouldn't do during an interview.
6. What are the characteristics of a good news lead?

## **Chapter 6**

1. What is the primary purpose of a feature story?
2. What is the main difference between feature writing and fiction writing?
3. The four main characteristics of feature writing, as detailed at the bottom of page 77 are?
4. What is an anecdote and why is it important in a feature lead?
5. What is a nut graf?
6. Referencing the “Leads to avoid” handout/presentation that I showed you in class (and is on my website); be able to name at least three leads you shouldn’t normally use.
7. I like to say that feature writers should use the three Ds: dialogue, description and detail. What are each of these three Ds? Be able to identify them when you see them in feature writing.
8. Describe what voice means as it relates to feature writing.
9. What is the difference between a profile and a human interest feature?

## **Chapter 22**

1. What is the difference between law and ethics?
2. What is the difference between personal and professional ethics?
3. Why is a code of ethics necessary for a journalist?
4. Be able to name at least three things journalism does to benefit/serve society.
5. Be able to name at least three goals a journalist should have.
6. When interviewing someone, why should you let them know you are a journalist?
7. What should happen if, after publishing a story, a journalist finds out she has made a mistake in the story?
8. Why should the use of anonymous sources be limited?
9. What is a shield law and how does this affect student journalists?
10. What is wrong with making up quotes and/or deliberately distorting photos?

## **Chapter 23**

1. Be able to explain how and where student media publish affects their First Amendment protections.

2. Be able to explain the difference in the following courts: federal courts, district courts, circuit courts, Supreme Court.
3. Know the basics of the following court cases: Tinker v. DesMoines, Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier, Bethel v. Frasier, Frederick v. Morse, Dean v. Utica.
4. Be able to define the following terms and give examples: libel, copyright, obscenity, invasion of privacy
5. Know what open meetings laws say and why they are sometimes called Sunshine Laws
6. Know what FOIA requests are, what the acronym stands for and at least one thing within a school system that can be FOIA'd.
7. Why is The Student Press Law Center an important resource for student journalists?
8. What are the five rights guaranteed under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution?

## **Part 2: Impromptu news brief, done in class**

I will give you quotes and the facts about an event. You will write a 150-200 word news brief about the event which follows journalistic style. It is due by the end of your final exam time.

## **Part 3: Reflection and goal-setting, can be done outside of class**

This part can be done before the final. It is due, shared with me as a Google Doc, by the end of your final exam time.