Option A: Obituary Assignment
You will write a 500-750 word obituary for the celebrity (television, movie or sports) of your choice. The celebrity must still be alive.

Requirements:
- 500-750 words (word count must be included at end)
- Factual details from at least two fact-based sources used
- At least two quotes from celebrity incorporated (include source of quote)
- Hook that pulls reader into story
- Indicate space where you would include relevant details of death: <INSERT CAUSE OF DEATH HERE>
- Include major details of life (accomplishments, scandals, etc)
- Incorporate small, intimate details throughout
- Impactful bolt graf (why this person mattered) toward end
- Powerful closing line
- Correct implementation of AP style (-2 points per AP style error)
- Appropriate usage of grammar, spelling and English-language conventions (-1 point per error)

Option B: Op-Ed Article
You will write a 500-750 word opinion editorial (op-ed) piece on a topic of your choice that is timely and original.

Requirements:
- 500-750 words (word count must be included at end)
- Timely and original topic
- Hook that pulls reader into story
- Strongest point/argument is made in first paragraph
- Factual details from at least two fact-based sources used
- At least two statistics incorporated for support (cite source)
- Clear point of view on topic
- Minimal use of first person
- Bolt graf (so what?) toward end
- Correct implementation of AP style (-2 points per AP style error)
- Appropriate usage of grammar, spelling and English-language conventions (-1 point per error)

How To Submit Articles
All submissions must be printed copies submitted at the start of the class period listed on your schedule. Issues such as printer not working, out of ink, out of money on Panthercard, etc. are not viable reasons for late submissions – reporters are expected to stick to strict deadlines in the real world. Make sure your rough draft with markings as discussed above is also submitted with final copy.
You cannot score above an 80% on any assignment without also submitting a marked rough draft. Rough drafts should be typed, printed and brought to class when indicated. Writer will make edits in pencil and sign bottom of draft, then submit to student editor. Student editor will edit in red pen and sign bottom of draft. Rough drafts with all markings must be submitted with all formal article/writing submissions. A failure to submit a rough draft with all markings will result in a 20 percent penalty on the formal assignment. Please note that if you are absent on an editing day in class, you must arrange to have another student edit your work outside of class. Submissions must be printed in black ink on 8.5 x 11 standard white paper, with one-inch margins and in 12-point Times New Roman font. Make sure final copy is free of all errors. You will lose two points for every AP style error and one point for every grammatical error (punctuation, etc.), in addition to normal grading.