Prep Assignments for Unit 1

All articles can be found on the course Lib Guide at
http://palmbeachstate.libguides.com/Spring_2016_pachtermassmedia

Prep 1

How To Break Into Newspaper Writing (Lisa Coffey)

1. What does reflection involve?
2. What are the five Ws in reporting?
3. Define each of the four S’s of reconstruction.
4. What do you do during the revision stage?

Prep 2

What Makes a Story Newsworthy? (Robert Knight)

How Do You Find People to Write About? (George Gurtner)

1. What does it mean when Knight states, “the whole concept of newsworthiness is cloudier”?
2. Where does most news on the Internet originate?
3. List three criteria Knight discusses for determining the newsworthiness of a story.
4. How can you use Gurtner’s article to inspire your own search for a story?
5. Based on these two articles, what topic have you decided to cover for your News Article 1 assignment?
   How does it meet each of the three criteria listed in Answer #3?

Prep 3

Gathering News (Edward Huw)

1. What are the five Ws of reporting and one H?
2. What are the building blocks of news?
3. How can you gather exclusive facts?
4. Why do you need to be well-informed before an interview?
5. How does Huw define fact vs. opinion?
6. How does the BBC (according to Huw) define impartiality?
Prep 4

**News Values and Principles (AP)**

1. When can you use anonymous sources for a story?
2. Explain the difference between “on the record” and “off the record.”
3. What’s the difference between a dateline and a byline?
4. What is AP’s position on using others’ materials in a story?
5. When establishing a source’s credibility (attribution), what type of information should be included?
6. What are the three most important things to remember when using quotations in a story?
7. Can reporters voice personal opinion or be involved in political activities? Why/why not?

Prep 5

**How To Write a Lead** (Christopher Arnold, et. al)

**Mastering the Inverted Pyramid** (Catherine Gourley)

1. For your story for the News Article 1 assignment, list the 5 Ws and 1 H.
2. What is the conflict in your story as defined by Arnold et al?
3. Write the lead of your story in one sentence, about 25-30 words.
4. Why do we use the inverted pyramid in newswriting?
5. What are the four steps to using the inverted pyramid?

Prep 6

**How To Write Better** (Gene Rose)

1. Look at stories in leading newspapers. Using the guidelines in this article, find one ineffective lead (be sure to credit your source); find one effective lead.
2. Looking at your own work on the News Article 1 assignment, why is it compelling? Specifically link your answer to one of Hewitt’s criteria.
3. Why must you write in active instead of passive voice?
4. Who is your model writer? Why?

Prep 7

**Write by Rewriting** (Tom Jenkins)

1. According to Jenkins, how should you approach rewriting an article?
2. Why is rewriting so important?