Guidelines for Writing Different Types of News Articles

Writing a Hard News Piece -- write about an event, person, place with an unbiased perspective. Present both sides of the story and interview all appropriate persons to make sure that you are presenting a well-rounded perspective!

- Keep your opinion out, this is an unbiased article
- Provide both sides of any argument to give a well-rounded perspective
- Your first sentence is your most important! In the first sentence you should try to answer all of the 5 W’s (who, what, when, where, why)
- Refrain from using clichés
- Write your article with the news first, then provide your background information a.k.a. inverted or upside-down pyramid model [http://journalism-education.cubreporters.org/2010/08/journalism-story-structure.html](http://journalism-education.cubreporters.org/2010/08/journalism-story-structure.html)
- Make sure to use correct grammar; journalist articles should be written in past tense and in an active voice!
- Keep your sentences clear!

Writing a Human Interest Story -- Write a story about a person or group of people that has an emotional factor. Present their concerns, problems, achievements, successes in a way that will capture your reader’s interest.

- May include your own personal opinion
- Be very descriptive, make the readers feel as if they can see what you are seeing
- Refrain from using clichés
- Make sure to use correct grammar; journalistic articles should be written in past tense and in an active voice!
- Keep your sentences clear!

Writing an Editorial Piece -- present your opinion about an important event or issue. You may want to interview an expert on the subject or other persons related to the story, as well as share your thoughts about the issue.

- May use your own voice, but still follow the guides of writing a Hard News piece
- Provide both sides of any argument to give a well-rounded perspective
- Your first sentence is your most important! In the first sentence you should be able to answer all of the 5 W’s (who, what, when, where, why)
- Refrain from using clichés