

Communication 1610
Newspaper Journal Assignment
Spring, 2005

Purpose and learning objectives:

- To develop the habit of reading a newspaper each day (a requirement for all communication professionals).
- To learn to identify news values as they appear in professional news products.

Requirements

- Each day, provide a 25- to- 50 word description of a news article (sports stories do not count) that appeared in the on-line version of the *Washington Post*. The description should summarize the story's news focus. *Your summary should list **the article's URL**.*
- You should develop a **three-word** (no more, no less) headline for each story. The headline **should summarize the news focus** and contain **a subject, an action verb and an object**. Examples: Democrats criticize Republicans; Utah beats BYU; Consumers prefer Toyotas; Utah raises tuition; Accident kills Utahian; Avalanche crushes skier.
- You should **use your own words** to summarize each news story. Merely copying, pasting and changing a couple words will result in a "0" (zero) for the week (note the warning at the bottom of this page).
- You should summarize an article each day **and turn in your weekly summary each Thursday**. As always, assignments are due at the **beginning** of class. All assignments **must be typed, in accordance with the class format and in AP style**. I will not accept improperly formatted material. After an entry is returned, compile your weekly summaries in a binder that you will turn it at the end of the semester.

Grading

Each week I will grade the journals check plus, check or a check minus. A check will be considered adequate completion of the exercise (100 percent checks will be graded as 100 percent of the exercise). I will give a check plus (3 extra-credit points) for summaries and headlines that are particularly well written (e.g., concise, accurate, clear, with no style errors). If you earn enough check plusses, it is possible to complete the overall assignment early (if this applies, I will notify you). If you do not turn in a journal entry for the week, I will give you a "0" for that week. The final grade for this exercise will be tabulated on a 90-80-70 percent basis.

Your journals MUST be original summaries. If I find that any journal entry (even one) is merely cut and pasted into the journal, I will give you a "0" (zero) for the entire journal exercise (10 percent of your grade).

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