**Yellow Journalism Project**

**BACKGROUND:**

It’s time to party like its 1898. You are the much-admired and respected editor of a major national newspaper known for its journalistic integrity and its commitment to telling the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. Unfortunately, pretty soon, you’re going to go bankrupt, because the public is apparently starting to find your truthful stories boring and you just haven’t been selling enough newspapers to stay in the game. Luckily, you’re also a sell-out. You’ve come to the realization that if you’re going to be able to compete with the big boys, Hearst & Pulitzer, you’re going to have to beat them at their own game: **yellow journalism.** Since you and your staff are such creative individuals, there is no doubt that tomorrow’s front page is going to blow theirs out of the water.

**DIRECTIONS:**

You are going to create the front page of your own newspaper on one of the topics listed below. You’ll have a great deal of freedom to do this in whatever style suits you best; however, you **MUST** include at the very least *all* of the following on your front page (even though some of these things might not typically be found on the front page….):

**1) Title for your Newspaper:** Come up with something preferably a little more creative than “Johnny’s Wicked Cool Newspaper.”

**2) Graphics:** Include at least one of the following: pictures, color, drawings, cartoons…go crazy!

**3) Headline:** a big, sensational main headline…this will correspond to your BIG story (see #4).

**4) A Feature article:** One full **“feature”** article (5 paragraphs, at least 6 sentences per paragraph) that corresponds to the above “Main Headline.” You will choose from the topic list below.

**5) Cite your sources page:**  Any source you use to gather information must be given proper credit. This should be done at the end of your paper.

**6) Prior to writing your feature article, you must complete a pre-writing outline. This must be turned in, and is part of your grade for this assignment.**

**TOPICS:**

Please note, that you must cover **ALL** aspects of the given topic that you choose.

**1) Hawaii, Queen Lilioukalani, the Sugar Plantation Owners, and the quest for statehood**

**2) The Sinking of the U.S.S. Maine, Cuba, Spain, and the advent of the Spanish American War.**

**3) China, the United States, the Open Door Policy and Spheres of Influence**

**4) Panama, Roosevelt, Columbia, and the building of the Panama Canal**

**PROCESS:**

1. Sign the Yellow Journalism Project computer usage agreement.
2. Choose a topic
3. Do an outline of what your feature article will contain (Introduction, three body paragraphs, conclusion). Your outline will be turned in and count for part of your grade.
4. Research some facts regarding your topic.
5. Complete your outline.
6. With your outline as a guide, write your article using the principle of yellow journalism.
   1. You must include a **bare minimum of five facts** in this article. It is important that I know you understand the background information on the topic you have chosen, yet can see where you have taken creative liberties.
   2. Facts in your article should be underlined.
7. Include Images to make your article more interesting.
8. Cite your sources

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Category | 20 | 15 | 10 | 5 | 0 |
| Content | -This article is written with an interesting hook to bring the reader into the story.  - Takes a strong, well-defined position; presents appropriate reasons, including more than five supporting details and historical facts.  -This story contains a **considerable** amount of **relevant** background information about the topic.  -Headline **strongly** supports the student’s view of the events. | -This article is written with an interesting hook to bring the reader into the story.  -Takes a clear position; presents appropriate reasons, supporting details and five historical facts.  -This story contains **some** background information about the topic  -Headline **moderately** supports the student’s view of the events. | - This article is written with a hook but it needs to be more interesting.  -Position not clearly stated; gives unrelated, unsupported, general statements, reasons and details; 2-3 facts used.  -This story contains very **little** background information about the topic.  -Headline **weakly** supports the student’s view of the events. | -This article is written with an uninteresting lead which does not encourage the reader to continue.  -Does not take a clear position; ideas are undeveloped; no historical facts or details support position.  -Headline **does not** support the student’s view of the events. | No response or response is completely incorrect. |
| Organization | -Descriptions of events are sequenced **effectively**; has strong introduction and conclusion; body is well developed; paragraphs are logically structured; overall structure and flow is very effective. | -Descriptions of events are sequenced **somewhat effectively**; includes introduction and conclusion; paragraphs are well structured, but may have minor flaws; structure is generally effective. | -Descriptions of events are **not well sequenced**; introduction or conclusion is unclear or lacking; organization of paragraphs is flawed. | -Structure is largely **unclear**, **inappropriate**, or lacking; introduction or conclusion is missing; there are significant flaws in the organization of paragraphs. | No response or response is completely incorrect |
| Mechanics | -**Accurate** spelling, punctuation, and grammar. No mistakes; sentence structure is highly varied and accurate. | -Some **minor** spelling, punctuation, or grammar errors. Errors are not distracting. Sentence structure is accurate and somewhat varied. | -**Careless** spelling, punctuation, or grammar errors; repetitive sentence structure. Errors are somewhat distracting to the flow of the article. | -**Significant** spelling, punctuation, or grammar errors; poor sentence structure. Errors are very distracting and take away from the content of the article | No response or response is completely incorrect |
| Layout | -Headline is larger than body  -Neatly typed; proper letter format and proper spacing.  -Images artfully placed | -Headline can be better focused;  -Neatly typed, but can have better formatting and spacing.  -Image appropriately placed | - Headline is improperly placed  -Format detracts from easily reading article.  -Poor placement of image | -No Headline;  -Difficult to read: is not properly formatted.  -Image impedes the ability to read article. | No response or response is completely incorrect |
| Creativity. | -Finished product is highly creative and shows student’s ingenuity. | -Finished product is creative. | -Finished product is somewhat creative. | -Finished product lacks creativity. | No response or response is completely incorrect |
| Components | -Student completed all components of the article, including a pre-writing outline, images, and a “cite your source” page | -Student completed most of the components of the article,  -Failed to include images. | -Student completed some of the components of the article  -Failed to include any images and a pre-writing outline. | -Student completed few of the components of the article.  -They failed to include images, a pre-writing outline, and/or a “cite your source” page. | No response or response is completely incorrect |

**Total out of 120:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**