**Extra Credit News Critique**

**Purpose:** The purpose of this exercise is to get students to read news articles and think critically about them in hopes of improving their own work.

**Procedure:** Students will select an article in a print or online newspaper to critique. The critique should answer the following questions:

1. Your overall impressions of the lede? (Length, information, writing style?)
2. What type of lede was used? (Anecdotal, mystery, summary…)
3. Which would you have chosen?
4. Where is the nut graf?
5. Does the but graf answer the two main questions?
   1. What is this story about?
   2. Why should I care? (impact?)
6. Does the story answer the three main questions?
   1. Why is this happening or why did this happen?
   2. How did this come about?
   3. What happens next?
7. What is the structure of the story (inverted pyramid, chronological, etc.)?
8. Which would you have chosen?
9. What do you think of the quotes?
10. What types of people are quoted?
11. Is the end quote successful in summarizing the story? Why or why not?
12. Is the story balanced? (Can you guess which side the author favors?)
13. What questions remain unanswered?
14. As a reporter, how would you answer them? (Whom would you talk to?)
15. Your overall impression of the story?

**Point value:** 10 extra credit points

**Length:** The critique should be 1-2 pages long, double-spaced. You should use Times New Roman 12-point type.

**Evaluation:** The professor will grade the critique and provide written feedback. The professor will also follow-up with the student in-person if additional clarification of anything is needed.