Grading Criteria for News Stories

* Story written in inverted pyramid format
* Use of summary lede and delayed identification
* In general, each sentence has no more than 35 words
* 1- to 2-sentence paragraphs
* 1-sentence ledea
* Use of simple vocabulary
* Use of mainly simple sentences but with some variety
* All information based on information provided – no created information or quotes
* Source cited appropriately
* Attribution used correctly
* Reference to a specific day of the week, not yesterday or today
* Use of active voice when possible

# **Poor Writing**

* Lede misses the major point or is too long
* Poorly organized article
* Some information may be missing
* Personal opinion of writer is included or writer draws conclusions not based on information provided
* Quotes created when none were provided in report
* Source missing or attribution used incorrectly
* Inappropriate tone for article
* Reference to today or yesterday, not a specific day of the week