

RUBRIC – Sports Article

name _____ grade _____

Writing is scored on a 4-point scale (one to four) using the following criteria:

	1	2	3	4
1. Meets deadline and submission requirements	Assignment is late and incomplete. Writer's name may be missing. Article may be handwritten or typed in unusable form.	Assignment is late, incomplete, or not saved in folder. Writer's name is on story. Revision is needed before the article can be included in the paper.	Assignment is on time and complete, but will require minor revision before it can be included in the paper. Writer's name is on story.	Article is completed on time, one copy saved in folder and one hard copy turned in. Writer's name is on story. Article is neatly typed in correct format and is ready for placement in Pagemaker.
2. Headline and lead	No headline is suggested, or suggested headline is merely a topic with no verb. Article does not identify what is unusual or interesting about this event or activity.	Headline is vague, misleading, or too reliant on sports "slanguage." Lead may be vague or misleading. Article does not provide clear focus on what is unusual or interesting about this event or activity.	A usable headline is suggested. News element is evident in lead. Article provides focus on what is unusual or interesting about this event or activity.	An interesting, appropriate headline is suggested. Lead is direct, relevant, and interesting. Good transitions are made from lead into next paragraphs.
3. Facts	Information is inaccurate or incomplete. Specific information is lacking. This article could have been written without actually attending a sporting event or practice. Writer's personal opinion or speculation may be expressed.	While some information is accurate, other facts may be inaccurate or missing. Article relies heavily on statistics rather than actual observations. Article lacks quotes to back up paraphrased information. Writer's personal opinion or speculation may be present.	Accurate information is presented. Some specific details give the reader a sense of attending the actual event. Article contains both paraphrased and quoted information. No personal opinion is present.	Accurate information is drawn from several sources. Rich, vivid, and interesting details give a clear sense of what it was like to be at the actual event. Article is a balanced combination of paraphrased and quoted information. All important, controversial, or opinion-based statements are clearly attributed.
4. Sports writing	Organizational structure of article is not apparent. Little knowledge or experience with the game is evident in article. Sports terminology is used inaccurately.	Article follows a straight news approach instead of feature approach, focusing on the old news of the game instead of interesting, timely features. Language is accurate; some sports clichés may be present.	Article, which takes feature approach, combines features of the pregame, game, or postgame article (see list below). Language is interesting and accurate; few sports clichés are used.	Article, which takes feature approach, can be clearly classified as pregame, game, or postgame (see list below). Language is fresh and original, with "slanguage" kept to a minimum.
5. Editing	Control of sentence, structure, punctuation, usage, and spelling is so minimal as to impede understanding. Story would require substantial editing before it could be published.	Article has many errors in proofreading. While there may be many errors in conventions or AP style, they seldom impede understanding. However, story would require some editing before it could be published.	Article is neatly typed, with only few proofreading errors. Story is nearly free of grammatical errors or errors in AP style. Only minor editing would be required before publication.	Article is neatly typed, with no errors in proofreading. Story is free from grammatical errors and in accordance with AP style. This story could be published with no changes.

Pregame story may include last year's scores of contests between the two schools, conditions of athletes (including injuries), key athletes or starting lineups, comparison of team or individual records, comments on styles of offensive or defensive play, significance of the event in terms of records or future events, any history of rivalry, and related spirit activities.

Game story presents detailed, accurate, play-by-play summary of the event, including statistics. Turning points in the sports event are highlighted; analysis of causes for success and/or failure may be included.

Postgame story focuses on sideline action, background, or interview, focusing on players after the event, descriptions of spectators' actions, historical perspectives on sport or rivalry, wrap-ups (or reviews) of the season after last game, interview with official after controversial call, or discussion of rule changes.