

Category 45: Broadcast Newswriting

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Write your script using any word processing program you choose.
- Next, convert the file to a PDF for submission.
- Entries must be uploaded by 6 p.m. CDT Oct. 18, 2021.

DO NOT INCLUDE YOUR SCHOOL NAME IN YOUR ENTRY.

WHAT JUDGES LOOK FOR

- Broadcast news style: short sentences, present tense, conversational
- Well-written leads, original angle, focus
- Use of news judgment
- Use of facts rather than generalizations
- Use of colorful detail, strong descriptions, storytelling quotations and attribution
- Appropriate order of intros, stories and closings; good transitions
- Correct grammar and overall structure
- Accuracy, completeness and elimination of extraneous material

ASSIGNMENT:

You are being given six different articles.

Write a 90-second television news script that a news anchor would read without video or as a voice-over while viewers would see the shots of the event in progress. The news story must be based only on the materials provided.

Read through all the articles, and write the script. Read the script to yourself to time it. The story should run at 90 seconds. Timing is critical.

GUIDELINES:

- Select information from the articles. Do not add information, and do not make up additional facts or quotations.
- Use at least **three** of the stories in your script; you do not need to use all of the provided stories. Prioritize stories according to news value.
- Accurately paraphrase any quotes you use, but quotes are not necessary.
- Judges will read the scripts aloud at a normal pace as they judge and time your script.
- Begin with an introduction, such as, "I'm Lauren Green, and this is your morning news update." Finish with some sort of closing, such as, "That's a brief look at news. I'm Lauren Green reporting."
(Use whatever sign off you feel best fits the piece).

Important Note:
Write the piece as if
it is airing on **Sept. 12.**

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Child COVID-19 hospitalizations reach new high as schools reopen

Sept. 10, 2021

(CNN) Just as doctors feared, more children are getting hit hard by COVID-19 as the Delta variant tramples across the country. And the school year just started.

“What we're seeing now is extremely concerning,” said Dr. Edith Bracho-Sanchez, associate professor of pediatrics at Columbia University Irving Medical Center.

“This virus is really going for the people who are not vaccinated. And among those people are children who don't qualify for the vaccine and children and teens who qualify but are choosing not to get it.”

Among the latest sobering statistics:

- A record-high 2,396 children were hospitalized with COVID-19 as of Sept. 7, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

- An average of 369 pediatric COVID-19 patients were admitted to hospitals every day during the week ending Sept.3, according to data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- More than 55,000 children have been hospitalized with COVID-19 since August 2020, according to CDC data.

COVID-19 deaths in children shouldn't be ignored, CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said. While children are far less likely to die from COVID-19 than adults, the deaths are still significant, she said.

As of Sept. 8, at least 520 US children have died from COVID-19, according to CDC data. For the 2019-20 flu season, the CDC reported 199 confirmed pediatric flu deaths..

One reason COVID-19 is deadlier for children than other infectious diseases is because many children are vaccinated against other diseases, said Dr. James Campbell, professor of pediatrics at the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

Doctors say it's critical to protect children against the Delta variant, not just for the sake of their health, but to preserve in-person learning and help prevent more aggressive variants from setting the country back.

Since the last school year, a more contagious variant, Alpha, has been replaced by an even more contagious Delta variant as the dominant strain of coronavirus in the U.S.

Now, “child cases have increased exponentially, with over 750,000 cases added between Aug. 5 and Sept. 2,” the American Academy of Pediatrics said. “About 252,000 cases were added the past week, the largest number of child cases in a week since the pandemic began.”

Children now make up more than 26% of new COVID-19 cases, the AAP said.

And more pediatric cases has led to more kids hospitalized with COVID-19, said Dr. Jon McCullers, pediatrician-in-chief at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital in Memphis.

“We have seen a significant surge in cases roughly for the last four weeks, roughly corresponding to the time when school got in,” McCullers said. “Interestingly, we're seeing about three times the number of hospitalizations that we saw during our peak during the winter.”

And, it's not just kids with preexisting conditions getting hospitalized. Almost half – 46.4% – of children hospitalized with COVID-19 between March 2020 and June 2021 had no known underlying condition, according to CDC data from almost 100 U.S. counties.

And the Delta variant is further annihilating the myth that healthy kids can't get hit hard. Previously, “the majority of kids that I've seen get really sick (with COVID-19) have been kids with other illnesses or comorbid conditions,” said Dr. Susannah Hills, a pediatric airway surgeon at Columbia University Medical Center. “But now, the difference with this Delta variant is that we're seeing kids who may not necessarily have comorbid conditions also end up in the hospital.”

The best steps parents can take include getting vaccinated and vaccinating children ages 12 and up, Walensky said. And even if a parent is fully vaccinated, there's a small chance they could catch an asymptomatic breakthrough infection and unknowingly pass the virus to their children.

That's why it's a good idea for all parents of young children to wear masks in public indoor settings, Walensky said. For kids too young to be vaccinated, it's important “to surround them with vaccinated people,” she said.

With the highly contagious Delta variant, the CDC recommends students from kindergarten through grade 12, along with teachers and visitors, wear masks in school.

“Our children deserve to have full-time, in person, safe learning with prevention measures in place. And that includes masking for everyone in schools,” Walensky said.

In addition to masks in schools, the CDC recommends layering other strategies such as improved ventilation, physical distancing and testing on a screening basis.

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‘Dancing With the Stars’ Season 30 cast revealed

Sept. 8, 2021

(CNN) An Olympian, a “Bachelor” and an influencer will try to dance their way to your votes. The new cast for Season 30 of “Dancing With the Stars” was announced on “Good Morning America” this week, and the reality competition kept with its usual formula of fan faves and headline makers.

The competitors are:

Country singer Jimmie Allen

Spice Girls member Mel C

“Bling Empire” cast member Christine Chiu

Actress Melora Hardin

YouTube personality Olivia Jade Giannulli

“The Bachelor” star Matt James

“The Talk” co-host Amanda Kloots

Actor Martin Kove

Olympic medalist Suni Lee

Professional wrestler/reality star Mike “The Miz” Mizanin

“Real Housewives of Atlanta” cast member Kenya Moore

Peloton instructor Cody Rigsby

Actor Brian Austin Green

Singer and YouTube personality JoJo Siwa

Professional basketball player/reality star Iman Shumpert

Siwa’s participation will mark the first time the show features a same-sex partnering of dance competitors. She went public in January as being a member of the LGBTQ community and later talked about being pansexual.

Disney announces the rest of its 2021 movies will debut exclusively in theaters

Sept. 12, 2021

New York, NY (CNN) Disney announced the remainder of its 2021 films will be released exclusively in theaters before streaming on Disney+.

The decision by Disney on Friday shows that the company is optimistic about movie theater audiences returning, despite COVID-19 spikes caused by the Delta variant.

“As confidence in moviegoing continues to improve, we look forward to entertaining audiences in theaters, while maintaining the flexibility to give our Disney+ subscribers the gift of Encanto this holiday season,” Disney Media & Entertainment Distribution Chairman Kareem Daniel said in a statement.

“Encanto,” an animated film about a magical family in Colombia with music by Lin-Manuel Miranda, will be available exclusively in theaters for a month following its Nov. 24 release. It will be on Disney+ on Christmas Eve.

The other scheduled releases for the year will be in theaters exclusively for 45 days. Marvel’s “Eternals” will

be in theaters Nov. 5 and a remake of “West Side Story” will be in theaters Dec. 10. Other movies hitting theaters this year include “The Last Duel,” “Ron’s Gone Wrong” and “The King’s Man.”

As streaming increasingly became the new normal for movie watching, theater owners struggled throughout the pandemic to operate as normal.

Marvel’s “Shang-Chi,” which opened exclusively in theaters, broke Labor Day box office records. The first Marvel film starring an Asian American superhero grossed \$247.6 million globally since it was released two weeks ago, staying at the top of the box office during its second week as well. Many viewed its successful opening as an encouraging sign for brick-and-mortar theaters.

Disney released Marvel’s “Black Widow” in both theaters and on Disney+ in July. The film’s star, Scarlett Johansson, sued the company claiming the simultaneous release breached an agreement on her salary, which was based on the box office haul.

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On the 20th anniversary of 9/11, America honors the memory of those who were lost: ‘We remember’

Sept. 11, 2021

USA Today / NEW YORK — Solemn crowds around the country gathered in silence Saturday for the 20th time to remember the nearly 3,000 people killed in the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks that forever changed the nation.

Bells tolled to signify the moments each tower of the World Trade Center was hit 20 years ago. Family members clutched photos of loved ones and wiped tears from one another’s eyes. In New York City, twin beams of light reached 4 miles into the sky in a haunting reminder of where the towers once stood.

Ceremonies were held Saturday in New York City, at the Pentagon and outside Shanksville, Pennsylvania, to honor the dead.

As survivors, politicians, first responders and loved ones of those who died reflected on the anniversary, many praised the unity Americans showed and highlighted the importance of passing on the memory of the day to those too young to remember it.

Former President George W. Bush recalled the unity and strength Americans showed 20 years ago, urging the country to put aside political views to come together again today.

“So much of our politics has become a naked appeal to anger, fear and resentment,” Bush said at a private ceremony for family of those killed when United Airlines Flight 93 crashed into a field outside Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

“On America’s day of trial and grief, I saw millions of people instinctively grab their neighbor’s hand and rally to the cause of one another.”

Bush, who was in office at the time, acknowledged that many people today aren’t old enough to remember these moments, even though they now “owe a vast, unconscious debt” to the first responders and others who died in the attacks.

“For those too young to recall that clear September day, it is hard to describe the mix of feelings we experienced,” he said. “There was horror at the scale of destruction and awe at the bravery and kindness that rose to meet it.”

President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden planned to visit all three sites. In New York, they were joined by former Presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama, as well as former first ladies Hillary Clinton and Michelle Obama.

The three presidents stood side-by-side, each wearing blue ribbons and holding their hands over their hearts as a procession marched a flag through the memorial.

Christine Munson, whose mother, Theresa, died in the south tower on Sept. 11, said she wishes the country could go back to the unity she felt after 9/11.

“We were there for each other and now we’re so divided,” she said.

Munson has volunteered at the 9/11 Museum, sharing her mother’s story with countless strangers. That’s part of what’s unique about mourning a 9/11 victim, she said.

“Most people die and you have a private ceremony,” she said. “Here, it’s with the whole world.”

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18-Year-Old Raducanu Defeats Fernandez to Win 2021 U.S. Open

Sept. 11, 2021

(CNN) In 2020, Emma Raducanu didn't play outside Great Britain because her parents feared for her safety amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

A year later, she's a Grand Slam champion.

Raducanu defeated Leylah Fernandez 6-4, 6-3 to capture the 2021 U.S. Open. The 18-year-old is the youngest major champion since Maria Sharapova won the 2004 Wimbledon Championship.

Saturday was the youngest U.S. Open final since Serena Williams and Martina Hingis went head-to-head in 1999.

Raducanu ranks as one of the most surprising winners in the event's history.

She navigated through the field as the 31st-ranked qualifier before dominating over the last two weeks in Queens, New York.

Despite being the lower-ranked player in every match she played in the event, Raducanu never lost a set. She took advantage of a somewhat easy slate of opponents as upsets allowed her to go through the first four rounds without facing a seeded opponent.

However, when she did wind up going against Belinda Bencic and Maria Sakkari to reach the final, she did not miss a beat.

Fernandez had a far tougher road, taking down Naomi Osaka, Angelique Kerber, Elina Svitolina and Aryna Sabalenka to get to the final. As the match wore on, it was apparent how much the arduous path took out of her.

The pair of rising stars traded points in a highly competitive back-and-forth first set that took nearly an hour before Raducanu broke at 4-4 and then closed things out the following game.

Fernandez roared back with a break of her own early in the second set, but Raducanu broke back twice and carried her own service to take a stranglehold on the match at 5-2.

A fearless Fernandez took the next game and nearly broke back to get the set on serve, but Raducanu closed out a back-and-forth 19th game after a brief medical timeout to attend to a bloodied leg.

The match served as a coming-out party for two young women few outside the biggest tennis hardcores had heard of before these last two weeks.

While the absence of Serena Williams and some of the sport's biggest names may have kept away the casual fan, those who tuned in Saturday saw the type of shot-making that could see Raducanu and Fernandez become two of the biggest faces in tennis.

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6 More People Connected To The Capitol Riot Plead Guilty

Sept. 10, 2021

(NPR) Six more people pleaded guilty on Friday to charges connected to the Jan. 6 Capitol riot, including a man who threatened to shoot House Speaker Nancy Pelosi in the head.

Cleveland Meredith Jr. missed the pro-Trump rally in Washington, D.C., earlier this year, but stuck around long enough to tell family members that he planned to shoot Pelosi. He pleaded guilty to one count of interstate communication of threats.

According to court papers, Meredith sent a relative a text message saying he wanted to attend an event with Pelosi and put "a bullet in her noggin on Live TV."

The relative contacted Meredith's mother, who got in touch with the FBI. Soon after, agents located Meredith in a downtown D.C. hotel, and found a handgun, rifle and 2,500 rounds of ammunition in his possession.

Meredith's sentencing is scheduled for December.

Two Illinois men — Bruce Harrison and Douglas Wangler — pleaded guilty to one misdemeanor count of picketing, parading or demonstrating in a capitol building.

They spent about 20 minutes inside the Capitol on Jan. 6, during which Harrison took a video of Wangler pumping his fist in the air.

Similarly, Brandon and Stephanie Miller, a married couple from Ohio, also pleaded guilty to the same count of parading in a capitol building.

The couple entered the Capitol through a window, and then broadcast live on social media from inside.

More than 600 people have been charged in the Capitol riot investigation, and at least 60 have pleaded guilty. Most of those, face low-level misdemeanor charges which carry minimum punishment. But people who plead guilty to felonies could receive years-long prison sentences.