

Magazine Article Guidelines

This year you are expected to write four feature articles for your yearlong magazine assignment; one per quarter. The topic of each article needs to be related to the theme of your magazine. If, for example, your magazine is about archaeology, perhaps one of your articles could focus on the excavations taking place in Kampsville, Illinois where the Mound Builders used to thrive.

These magazine articles need to be non-fictional (e.g. factual). Whatever topic you select, your articles must be fact-based, and written in third person format.

Each of your articles must also include a Works Cited. We will spend time in class learning how to write these using the website EasyBib which is linked on my blog.

We will examine short articles prior to writing so you will have an idea of how these articles are written. Please keep the following in mind when writing your articles:

- Make sure the topic you are writing about is of interest to you and that you can find enough information about it to help you.
- Develop **5-6 guiding questions** you want to answer with the information you gather on your topic. You will do this prior to research and a worksheet will be provided for this task. \
- Research your facts! Make sure your information is accurate; you **will** need to do some research prior to writing your articles. **A WARNING UP FRONT: NEVER, EVER USE WIKIPEDIA AS A SOURCE!!**
- **When making your notes, be sure to put the information into your own words.**
- Remember the writing process; pre-write, rough draft, revise, edit and publish. You **DO NOT** need to write a perfect piece right off the bat! Make sure to use your own voice when writing; do not copy another person's work!
- **Use the rubric to help you craft your article.** Remember the funnel format; articles usually start with a broad statement or two to let the reader know what to expect. Then, the article gets more detailed. We will learn more about this in class.
- Pay close attention to the use of complete sentences; can you locate any fragments and run-ons? Ask me for help; if you need help and don't ask, I have no way of knowing that you are in distress.
- Do not forget your Works Cited, and do not forget to use the EasyBib link on my blog!

Assignment Deadlines (These May Change!)

Guiding Questions: **Due Friday, 11/9**

Note Checks: **Tuesday, 11/13 & Thursday, 11/15**

Typed Rough Draft: **Monday, 11/19**

Typed Second Draft: **Monday, 11/26**

Typed Final Draft: **Monday, 12/3**

Magazine Article Rubric

| | Needs Work | Satisfactory | Outstanding |
|------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Works Cited (5 Pts) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used 1 source | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used 3 sources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used 5 or more sources |
| Mechanics (5 Pts) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 or more spelling & grammar errors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10-14 spelling & grammar errors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 or fewer spelling & grammar errors |
| Intro Paragraph (5 Pts) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intro paragraph is <i>not very</i> interesting nor clear and/or <i>vaguely</i> defines topic | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intro paragraph is <i>somewhat</i> interesting and <i>somewhat</i> defines topic | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intro paragraph is <i>very</i> interesting and <i>clearly</i> defines topic |
| Body of Paper (30 Pts) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paragraphs <i>rarely</i> focus on one main idea expressed in topic sentences then supported by details presented in the body Paragraphs contain <i>little</i> evidence to support topic sentences Written work does <i>not</i> flow; sentence structure rarely varies and transitions are rarely used Ideas <i>not</i> clearly expressed; writing does not make sense and is confusing in many places | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paragraphs <i>generally</i> focus on one main idea expressed in topic sentences then supported by details presented in the body Paragraphs contain <i>adequate</i> evidence to support topic sentences Written work flows <i>pretty</i> well; sentence structure is sometimes varied and transitions are present in some paragraphs Ideas expressed <i>somewhat</i> clearly; most writing makes sense and is pretty easy to understand | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paragraphs <i>consistently</i> focus on one main idea expressed in topic sentences then supported by details presented in the body Paragraphs contain <i>substantial</i> evidence to support topic sentences Written work flows <i>very</i> well; sentence structure varies consistently and transitions are present in all paragraphs Ideas expressed <i>very</i> clearly; all writing makes sense and is easy to understand |

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| <p>Concluding Paragraph (5 Pts)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concluding paragraph <i>neglects restating main points/is missing/does not</i> make me want to learn more about the topic | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concluding paragraph restates main points and <i>somewhat</i> makes me want to learn more about the topic | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concluding paragraph restates main points and <i>really</i> makes me want to learn more about the topic |
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