

Tennessee YMCA Youth Legislature
PRESS CORPS INITIAL ASSIGNMENT

****Complete this assignment ONLY if you DID NOT serve on the Press Corps at YL or MUN 2007! If you did serve last year, please complete the ALTERNATE assignment.****

Assignment: Preparatory Research
Format: Typed, single-spaced
Deadline: As set by your advisor

In order to serve on the Youth Legislature Press Corps, you must answer the following questions clearly, concisely and completely in paragraph form. With some savvy surfing, you should be able to find the answers to all of these questions using *reputable* internet sources. Should you not complete the following preparatory work, you will be asked to join a bill team and will not be allowed to serve on the 2006 Press Corps.

1. What is *news writing*?
2. What is *feature writing*?
3. Provide an example of how you might correctly employ feature writing in a Youth Legislature newspaper.
4. What is *editorial writing*?
5. Why might this type of article in a Youth Legislature newspaper be cause for concern if poorly written or improperly identified as 'editorial' in nature? (Hint: Think school competition, loyalty...)
6. What is a lead?
7. Please use the attached story skeletons to practice writing your own effective lead paragraphs.
8. What is the *Inverted Pyramid*?
9. Why do journalists use this writing style to construct stories?
10. What are the 5 Ws and 1 H?
11. What is *libel*?
12. What three conditions must be satisfied in order to constitute libel?
13. Define *defamation*. (Not necessarily from Webster's, but in terms of proving libel.)
14. Do some general background research on the Supreme Court case *New York Times v. Sullivan*. Then, answer the following questions:
 - a) Briefly describe the incident in question.
 - b) How did the court rule?
 - c) What precedents for current libel law were set as a result of the ruling?
15. What are the possible defenses of libel? (Name 3)
16. What is slander?
17. Visit www.spj.org to locate the Society of Professional Journalists' Code of Ethics. Please print the code and attach it to your answers. Read the code, then identify (hi-lighting will suffice) the 10 elements of the code YOU feel are the most important & applicable to our Youth Legislature.