Unit Exam for Journalistic Writing Basics

Multiple choice.

\_\_\_A\_ 1. Paragraphs in journalistic writing tend to be

A. 1-2 sentences

B. 2-3 sentences

C. 3-4 sentences

\_\_\_C\_ 2. What is a transition?

A. The second part of the quote after the name of the speaker.

B. Information that makes the question the reporter asked clear.

C. Facts and information that make quotes relevant.

\_\_\_A\_ 3. Said is the best verb to use for attribution because

A. it adds no editorial comment.

B. journalistic writing has weak verbs.

C. writers are not supposed to have their own style in journalistic writing.

\_\_\_B\_ 4. How many words on average are in the first paragraph of a news story?

A. 10-20 words

B. 20-30 words

C. 30-40 words

List Ernest Hemingway’s advice for writing.

Use short sentences

Use short first paragraphs

Use vigorous English

Be positive, not negative

What information goes in the first paragraph of a news story?

Who, What, When, Where, Why, How

List at least three ways journalistic writing differs from the typical Engish-class essay. (Use complete sentences.)

Possible answers:

Paragraphs are shorter -- Essays change paragraphs when the theme changes.

Journalistic writing is intended to be read many people.

Journalistic writing depends on quotes rather than the writer’s own knowledge.

English essays encourage longer sentences and higher-level vocabulary.

English essays have introductory paragraphs and thesis statements.