**News Judgment Exam**

DIRECTIONS:

1. There are 10 scenarios below. Read them all, then choose two.

2. On a separate sheet of paper, write the number of the first scenario you chose and the news value that should be the most dominant for a story about that scenario in your publication or broadcast.

3. Then list three potential sources for more information and quotes for the story.

4. Write two questions for each of those sources that will help you to get the information you need to write a story focusing on the news value you chose.

5. Repeat steps 1 and 2 for the second scenario of your choice.

**Timeliness Proximity Prominence Conflict**

**Consequence Currency Human Interest Novelty**

**Scenario 1**

During the homecoming parade, the car carrying the grand marshal of the parade and the principal experienced a flat tire, thus causing the parade to stop for almost an hour. The parade resumed only after AAA service came to fix the tire. Meanwhile, people who had lined up along the street to see the parade left, so few were there to see the floats and band. The late parade also caused problems later in the evening, as the students on the homecoming committee could not get to the dance venue in time to get it decorated before the dance was set to begin. Students attending the dance had to wait in the venue’s parking lot for an hour, but the dance ended at the scheduled time. Students complained that they did not get their money’s worth.

**Scenario 2**

In an effort to reduce the absentee rate at school, the administration enacted a new policy that senior skip days were strictly forbidden and that any senior who missed school on what appeared to be a designated skip day would receive three days of in-school suspension and not be permitted to participate in or attend any school-related functions for one week, including any senior events and sports games or matches even if the student is on the team.

**Scenario 3**

Results from a recent survey of teachers at the local high school mentioned that nearly 30% of the teachers said that they would not return to teach at the school the following school year. Various reasons were mentioned, including poor pay, large class sizes, and lack of technological support.

**Scenario 4**

As part of a senior prank, students took all of the furniture out of three of the outside portable classrooms and set up each class on the rooftops. Administration is attempting to figure out how the alarm was disengaged and how the classroom doors were unlocked. It is an open secret who did the prank, as the prank showed up first in several students’ Instagram feeds.

**Scenario 5**

Due to a lack of fundraising efforts when they were the junior class, this year’s seniors will have to pay to go to prom, unlike in past years when seniors would go for free. The admission to prom is $90 per person.

**Scenario 6**

Student transcripts that were to be sent to in-state universities by school counselors by the early decision application deadline were lost in the mail. Over 50 students were denied early decision status as a result of this error.

**Scenario 7**

For the first time in school history, graduation ceremonies will be held off campus at a nearby arena. The growth of student population has led to this change. While many understand the reason for the decision, a movement by a group of parents has begun to try to keep the ceremony on campus.

**Scenario 8**

A Category 5 hurricane sweeps through several states in the Northeast, causing 285 deaths and more than $50 billion in damage to homes and businesses over the prior weekend. Local emergency workers are preparing to go to cities hit hard by the hurricane. School service clubs are gearing up to help with raising money and gathering supplies.

**Scenario 9**

The area’s only major bookstore announces that it will close. The next-closest book store is more than 20 miles away. The shopping center’s leasing company refuses to renew the lease for the bookstore, and community members, including several students and the school librarian, plan to protest the decision.

**Scenario 10**

A chemical spill occurs in the science wing of the school, causing minor injuries to several students and one teacher. A significant section of the school is off limits, and many classes are cancelled as students have to wait outside at the football stadium. Most classes continue to meet, however, in areas of the school not off limits. It takes a Hazmat crew three hours to clean the spill.