**News Gathering Basics Test**

**Short Answer (20 points possible)**

**1. Name four ways you can get information for a news or feature story other than observation or interviewing.**

**1) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**3) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 4) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**2. What are three things to look for to be sure an Internet source is valid and reliable?**

**1) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**3) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**3. What is plagiarism? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**4. How can you be sure that you do not plagiarize?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**5. Name three disadvantages of using email or text messaging instead of a face-to-face interview:**

**1) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**3) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**6. What two things should you always do before you interview someone?**

**1) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**7. What is an open-ended question, and why is it important for journalism?**

**8. What is the use of a close-ended question in a journalistic interview?**

**9. How many sources should every story have, at least?**

**10. What should you always ask at the end of an interview?**

**11. What are two different kinds of sources you might have on a story?**

**1) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Multiple Choice – Write the letter of the correct answer in the space next to the question (5 points possible).**

**\_\_\_\_\_ 12. Which of the following is NOT an example of crowdsourcing?**

a) Asking a question on Twitter

b) Using several social media sites to find eye-witnesses to an event

c) Posting news stories on your web site and allowing comments

d) Using Storify to collect social media comments on an event

**\_\_\_\_\_ 13. Information on which of these web sites is almost always false?**

a) Daily Current

b) Fox News

c) Huffington Post

d) Twitter

**\_\_\_\_\_ 14. Which of the following is LEAST likely to be a valid and reliable source?**

a) An undated informational web page from a well-known research center

b) A press release issued this morning from the White House

c) An article on the Web that includes no date, author or citations

d) A research paper from five years ago written by a respected academic

**\_\_\_\_\_ 15. When planning an interview, which is the best order for questions in a formal interview?**

a )Softball questions, probing questions, factual questions

b) Softball questions, factual questions, probing questions

c) Probing questions, factual questions, softball questions

d) Any order can work, depending on the interview

**\_\_\_\_\_ 16. Which of the following is NOT a valid research tool used by journalists:**

a) JSTOR database

b) Google

c) Tumblr

d) Public court filings

**MATCHING - Write the letter of the definition next to the correct term in each section. (1/2 point each; 20 points possible)**

**Section One** **– Research and Interviewing**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. \_\_\_\_\_\_ 5W and 1H | a. These provide access to official information at local, state and federal levels. |
| 2. \_\_\_\_\_\_ read back | b. Population sample used to evaluate trends and public opinion. |
| 3. \_\_\_\_\_\_ verification | c. Format in which a prominent source is interviewed by several reporters simultaneously. |
| 4. \_\_\_\_\_\_ sunshine laws | d. Building blocks to develop interview questions. |
| 5. \_\_\_\_\_\_ research | e. These provide for open access to government records and require advanced notice of meetings. |
| 6. \_\_\_\_\_\_ press conference | f. Method of verification where reporter repeats quotes to source during or after interview. |
| 7. \_\_\_\_\_\_ open records laws | g. Used to develop story background, identification and information of sources. |
| 8. \_\_\_\_\_\_ poll | h. Proving the accuracy of information. |

**Section Two** **– Research and Interviewing**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 9. \_\_\_\_\_\_ reaction | a. A transcribed, recorded interview that includes all questions and answers. |
| 10. \_\_\_\_\_\_ survey | b. Short clip of a longer piece of dialogue. |
| 11. \_\_\_\_\_\_ panel discussion | c. Information that is passed down from one source to another or is reported in another publication. |
| 12. \_\_\_\_\_\_ Q and A | d. News gathering technique using a sample population often resulting in open-ended responses. |
| 13. \_\_\_\_\_\_ rephrase | e. Clarification technique used to clarify or organized source responses. |
| 14. \_\_\_\_\_\_ sound bite | f. Written account of a speech, interview, or press conference. |
| 15. \_\_\_\_\_\_ secondary source | g. Comment made in response to event or another quote made by another source. |
| 16. \_\_\_\_\_\_ transcript | h. Group comes together to prevent and field questions from audience of reporters. |

**Section Three** **– Research and Interviewing**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 17. \_\_\_\_\_\_ quotation | a. Sharing of information by reporters and sometimes involved citizens working on a story. |
| 18. \_\_\_\_\_\_ softball questions | b. Use of a group of people to gather information, usually through Internet or social media. |
| 19. \_\_\_\_\_\_ primary source | c. Factual information, often numerical, used to support a story. |
| 20. \_\_\_\_\_\_ public records | d. Beginning interview questions used to create comfortable, conversational tone. |
| 21. \_\_\_\_\_\_ person on the street | e. Direct expression of a source, either spoken or written, word-for-word. |
| 22. \_\_\_\_\_\_ open source reporting | f. First-hand account of an event, someone who was involved in a decision, or the original research |
| 23. \_\_\_\_\_\_ crowd sourcing | g. Technique in which a reporter interviews random sources, usually for reaction to events. |
| 24. \_\_\_\_\_\_ data | h. Documents that are open for anyone to request or see. |

**Section Four– Research and Interviewing**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 25. \_\_\_\_\_\_ formal interview | a. Technique where two questions are asked at the same time to elicit an open-ended response. |
| 26. \_\_\_\_\_\_ fact checking | b. Source that is highly knowledgeable about a topic. |
| 27. \_\_\_\_\_\_ expert | c. Paraphrased information used in reporting. |
| 28. \_\_\_\_\_\_ two-part question | d. Witnessing events or evaluating the environment and demeanor of sources. |
| 29. \_\_\_\_\_\_ advance | e. Well planned, sit down interview. |
| 30. \_\_\_\_\_\_ computer assisted reporting | f. A type of story that focuses on upcoming events. |
| 31. \_\_\_\_\_\_ indirect quote | g. Using computers to gather data via the use of databases. |
| 32. \_\_\_\_\_\_ observation | h. Process of checking for accuracy and verification. |

**Section Five – Research and Interviewing**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 33. \_\_\_\_\_\_ open-ended question | a. Organized information found on a computer. Source for research. |
| 34. \_\_\_\_\_\_ investigative reporting | b. Question used to further develop a response from a previous question or interview. |
| 35. \_\_\_\_\_\_ attribution | C Type of source, such as public records or transcripts, that help provide information for a story. |
| 36. \_\_\_\_\_\_ closed-ended question | d. In depth exploration of a topic involving intensive research, first-hand sources, and fact checking. |
| 37. \_\_\_\_\_\_ direct quote | e. Exact words from a source. |
| 38. \_\_\_\_\_\_ follow-up question | f. Questions that elicit limited response, such as a yes or no answer. |
| 39. \_\_\_\_\_\_ database | g. Identification of a source in a story. |
| 40. \_\_\_\_\_\_ documents | h. Questions that elicit a fully developed response. |

**NEWS GATHERING BASICS TAKE HOME TEST ASSIGNMENT**

**1. Interview a Teacher (10 points for each question and answer; 30 points possible)**

Choose one teacher whom you would like to know more about. Write three questions for that teacher, secure an interview time before test day and ask your questions. Turn in your questions and quotes on a separate sheet of paper or Google doc.

**2. Observation Notes (25 points possible)**

Select an event to observe continuously for at least 15 minutes. As you observe, write notes of your observation. Following the observation and note taking, transcribe your observations by creating five statements that could be included in a story. The statements are only what you observe with your own senses.

Write two leads for the story that could result from your observation: One summary lead and one feature lead that uses your observation.

Suitable options for observation include: a live sporting event at school or in the community; a meeting of any club or organization at school; a lecture class or guest speaker; a pep rally or other schoolwide activity; band, drama, dance team or debate rehearsal; another event approved by your adviser.

Turn in your five statements and two leads on a separate sheet of paper or Google doc.

**News Gathering Basics Test KEY**

**Short Answer**

**1. Name four ways you can get information for a news or feature story other than observation or interviewing.**

* Internet searches
* Books and journals
* Scholarly articles
* Transcripts and other documents
* Crowdsourcing and open-source journalism
* Internet searches
* Books and journals
* Scholarly articles
* Transcripts and other documents
* Crowdsourcing and open-source journalism

**2. What are three things to look for to be sure an Internet source is valid and reliable?**

* Sources of information are cited. (Article contains citations.)
* The website is created by a well-known organization, particularly a news organization
* Articles include dates when the information was posted.
* The author is identified and credentials are cited.
* The site provides a way for you to contact the author.
* You can verify the information elsewhere.
* The site has no errors in spelling, grammar or facts.
* The site is updated regularly.

**3. What is plagiarism?**

Taking someone else’s ideas or words and presenting them as your own

**4. How can you be sure that you do not plagiarize?**

Always cite your sources!

**5. Name three disadvantages of using email or text messaging instead of a face-to-face interview:**

No personal interaction. Lack of observation and nonverbal language. Lag time between questions makes it hard to ask follow up questions. You cannot be 100 percent certain that the person who wrote the email is who you think they are.

**6. What should you always do before you interview someone?**

Research and plan. Write questions.

**7. What is an open-ended question, and why is it important for journalism?**

Open-ended questions are those than cannot be answered in just a word or two. They are questions that elicit a more thoughtful or colorful response.  Open-ended questions include questions beginning with how, why, “what happened,” and “tell me about.”

**8. What is the use of a close-ended question in a journalistic interview?**

These questions often yield facts, such as when, where, and how much. They also can be paired with follow-up questions.

**9. What should you always ask at the end of an interview?**

“Is there anything you’d like to add?”

**10. How many sources should every story have, at least?**

Three.

**11. What are two different kinds of sources you might have on a story?**

A person involved in the event, a person reacting to the event, an expert on the issue

Multiple Choice

**C 12. Which of the following is NOT an example of crowdsourcing?**

a) Asking a question on Twitter

b) Using several social media sites to find eye-witnesses to an event

**c) Posting news stories on your web site and allowing comments**

d) Using Storify to collect social media comments on an event

**A 13. Information on which of these web sites is almost always false?**

**a) Daily Current**

b) Fox News

c) Huffington Post

d) Twitter

**C 14. Which of the following is LEAST likely to be a valid and reliable source?**

a) An undated informational web page from a well-known research center

b) A press release issued this morning from the White House

**c) An article on the Web that includes no date, author or citations**

d) A research paper from five years ago written by a respected academic

**B 15. When planning an interview, which is the best order for questions in a formal interview?**

a ) Softball questions, probing questions, factual questions

**b) Softball questions, factual questions, probing questions**

c) Probing questions, factual questions, softball questions

d) Any order can work, depending on the interview

**C 16. Which of the following is NOT a valid research tool used by journalists:**

a) JSTOR

b) Google

**c) Tumblr**

d) IRE

**Matching** *There are five sections with eight items per section and two sections with 10 items per section.*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Section One | 1. d | 2. f | 3. h | 4. e | 5. g | 6. c | 7. a | 8. b |
| Section Two | 9. g | 10. d | 11. h | 12. a | 13. e | 14. b | 15. c | 16. f |
| Section Three | 17. e | 18. d | 19. f | 20. h | 21. g | 22. a | 23. b | 24. c |
| Section Four | 25. e | 26. h | 27. b | 28. a | 29. f | 30. g | 31. c | 32. d |
| Section Five | 33. h | 34. d | 35. g | 36. f | 37. e | 38. b | 39. a | 40. c |

**TAKE HOME PORTION RUBRIC**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Interview questions**  (5 each/ 15 points possible) | Questions are open-ended, creative and enticing to elicit strong quotes from the subject. Through the questions, the personality of the subject is revealed. | Questions help to reveal the personality of the subject, but one or more question is close-ended. | No open ended or follow-up questions. | No questions written. |
| **Quotes**  (5 each/ 15 points possible) | Quotes were lively and interesting. | Quotes were publishable, but could be more interesting. | Quotes were only one or two words, or the student did not collect three quotes. | Interview not conducted. |
| **Observation Sentences**  (2 each/ 10 points possible) | All five sentences show originality and clearly reflect the reporter’s own observations. Sensory detail and key interactions are recorded. | Fewer than five sentences are provided. Some sensory detail is reported, but key interactions and telling details are missing. | It is not clear from the sentences provided that the student actually observed the event. Sensory and telling details are absent. | Observation not completed. |
| **Observation Leads**  (7.5 each/ 15 points possible) | Summary lead clearly summarizes all 5Ws of the event, starting with the most important detail. The second lead uses sensory and telling detail from observation to draw readers to the story. | Summary lead summarizes most of the 5Ws but does not start with the most important detail or leaves out some information. The second lead uses some detail from observation. | Summary lead does not summarize the 5Ws. The second lead does not use details from observation.  Leads confuse the reader or do not tell any part of the story. | Leads are not written. |
| **Total points** |  |  |  |  |