In the discipline of Journalism the writer has one goal. That goal is to deliver important information quickly in a way that is both enjoyable and con- vent to the reader. There are several forms of writing in journalism; news writing, feature writing, and broadcast writing are the three major ones. For the purpose of this document I will fo- cus on news writing.

News writing follows one format and one format only and that is the Inverted Pyramid method. The inverted pyramid method teaches students to categorize the information on a par- ticular subject from most important to least important. After establishing this outline a journalist will write a news story with the most important informa- tion at the beginning trickling down to the least important and almost irrele- vant information.

The purpose of this style is to convey information to people on the go. Someone late for work who skims over an article should gather the jest of the story in that short amount of time. Think about articles on websites such as CNN, ESPN, WRAL, and NBC. You could stop reading an article at any point on anyone of these sites and still understand the basics of the story with- out all of the details.

This is also the preferred method because it makes for easy edits. An editor can cut the story from the bot- tom up leaving out as much information as they see fit, knowing that the stories message will still reach its audience. Depending on the audience, more con- versational writing is encouraged. The use of contractions and simple phrases make the article more relatable and easier to read. The inverted pyramid style came about because of the invention of the telegraph.

“The telegraph had a drawback. It was expensive to use. One of the first charges was a penny a character. News- papers spent
hundreds of thousands of dollars in telegraph costs to report the Civil War. That economic pressure more than anything else influenced a new kind of writing that departed from the flowery language of the 19th century — it was concise, stripped of opinion and detail.”, According to Chip Scanlan.

Quotes and information in a news story are attributed to the source within the article. Sources can be reached by email, phone, or an in person interview.

Some writers in the discipline of Journalism may struggle at first because of their experiences in a FYC. In many ways traditional writing and journalistic writing are polar opposites of each other. It is bit of a shock to be taught one thing most of your life and then have to totally break that mold.

Tutors need to be very patient with students just starting out in the discipline of journalism. They may also want to keep an AP Style Book on hand since journalism students use AP Style to write their work. Two possible techniques that the tutor could use are the MOM and Paramedic methods. The first of the two methods can be used to write the story and the second for further editing.

The workings of the MOM method are quite simple. Have the student to think of writing the story as if they were briefly speaking with their mother on the phone, informing her about something she has no prior knowledge of. This will help the student decide what aspects of the subject are most important to the story and which are not. After they have written the story use the Paramedic method to clean it up. The paramedic method consists of:

1. Circle the prepositions (of, in, about, for, onto, into).
2. Draw a box around the "is" verb forms.
3. Ask, "Where’s the action?"
4. Change the "action" into a simple verb.
5. Move the doer into the subject (Who’s kicking whom).
7. Eliminate any redundancies.

Students also may benefit from the readily available samples of news writing around them. A quick google search or the use of websites such as PurdueOwl.com will produce many examples ranging from advanced to simple. Tutors could study these methods and examples before the students’ arrival so that they have a better understanding of the journalism writing discipline. Tutors could also practice writing a news story and have other tutors or journalism professors’ grade, edit and critique them to make sure they have a strong grasp of the journalism writing discipline.

Works Cited
Jornalism Writing.” Message to the author. 20 Feb. 2013. E-mail.