

Module 11: Contemporary Voices

Topic 4 Application: Literary Journalism Article Rubric

As you have learned in this topic, Truman Capote's nonfiction novel *In Cold Blood* had a lasting effect on literature. The narrative reporting style of literary journalism reflects its influence in both *Into the Wild* and *The Color of Water*. Books such as these employ writing styles that make nonfiction just as captivating as fictional works.

For this topic application, you will have a chance to create your own piece of literary journalism that could be published in a newspaper, magazine, or other periodical. Your journalistic article will portray a real life event in the nation or your local community using the conventions of literary journalism such as scene-by-scene construction, dialogue, first-person viewpoint, and character motivation. As a literary journalist, your focus is not only on presenting the facts but telling a story in an intriguing way using elements of narrative fiction.

To begin your literary journal piece, review national or local news sources and conduct research to gather factual information about a person or event which you are interested in reporting. If the person or event is in your local community, you may even be able to conduct an interview and incorporate the story of your first-hand investigation. Whichever story you select, be sure to retell that story in an article of at least five hundred words in the style of literary journalism. Feel free to use some artistic license in the narrative style of your writing to make the story interesting, but make sure your information is professional as well as factual and accurate.

You will need to use resources outside of this course to complete this assignment, so please submit a Works Cited document with your assignment submission. If you need assistance, visit the Developmental Module for information on citing resources. Before you begin the assignment, review the Literary Journalism Article Rubric to help you complete your assignment and understand how your work will be graded.

Once you have completed your literary journalism article, please submit your work to the dropbox.

Literary Journalism Article Rubric

Before you begin the assignment, review the Literary Journalism Article Rubric to help you complete your assignment and understand how your work will be graded.

	25 Points	20 Points	15 Points	10 Points
Content	The article is written throughout in a style that is clearly consistent with the conventions of literary journalism.	The article is written throughout in a style that is fairly consistent with the conventions of literary journalism.	The article is written in a style that is somewhat consistent with the conventions of literary journalism.	The article is written in a style that is not clearly consistent with the conventions of literary journalism.

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Factual Accuracy and Evidence	The article reports accurate and factual information about a real person and/or event. There is clear evidence of research and fact gathering.	The article reports mostly accurate and factual information about a real person and/or event. There is evidence of research and fact gathering.	The article reports some factual information about a real person and/or event, but other information presented as facts has no basis. There is little evidence of research and fact gathering.	The article reports little to no factual information about a real person and/or event. There is little or no evidence of research and fact gathering.
Effectiveness	The article effectively uses elements of fiction and a narrative style to engage the reader.	The article uses some elements of fiction and a narrative style to engage the reader in a way that is fairly effective.	The article uses few elements of fiction to engage the reader. The tone of the article appears concerned with only the facts.	The article uses little to no elements of fiction to engage the reader. The style is straightforward and does little to tell the story in a literary manner.
Works Cited, Grammar, and Spelling	The formatting of quotes, paraphrased information, and source information adheres to the proper formatting guidelines. The writer makes no errors in grammar and spelling that distract the reader from the content.	There are minor formatting (quoted and paraphrased material and source information) errors. Overall, the article adheres to the formatting guidelines. The writer makes 1–2 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	There are several formatting errors (issues with quoted and paraphrased material and source information). The writer makes 3–4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	An attempt at formatting is made, but it does not follow the proper guidelines. The writer makes more than 4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.