Sports writing

Chapter 11 – Hi-Lights I

Due Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Your task is to write one excellent, well-polished sports story of 350-500 words. You have three options:

1. Write a sports game story using the information included in this handout. Use your news judgment to help decide which pieces of information to include and how to organize your information. DO NOT simply copy the information as it is presented – express the ideas in an original manner.
2. Write a sports feature story using the information included in this handout. Use your news judgment to help decide which pieces of information to include and how to organize your information. DO NOT simply copy the information as it is presented – express the ideas in an original manner.
3. Choose a sporting event about which you wish to write. The event could be:
	* A Plymouth High School athletic contest
	* A televised sporting event (college, pro)
	* A grade or middle school athletic contest
	* An intermural athletic contest (church league basketball, for example)
	* A radio broadcast of a sporting event

Include:

* As many statistics as possible (be as accurate as possible)
* Emphasis on direct quotes
* Make your writing as lively as possible (remember to avoid clichés and choose appropriate verbs)
* Hi-Lights style (check the style sheet and the style book if in doubt!!)

Hi-Lights I
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*Sports Story Assessment*

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|  | A | B | C | D |
| Content50 | - Successfully concise, attention-grabbing lead- Very well detailed with all information relevant- Coach/participant comments are highly relevant and prominent in story- Story uses very specific examples/statistical data- If necessary or assigned, writer interprets action/plays/calls very effectively | - Lead attempts to go beyond the 5ws and h- Well detailed with nearly all information relevant- Coach/participant comments are relevant and used often in story- Story uses specific examples/statistical data- If necessary or assigned, writer interprets action/plays/calls effectively | - Basic lead sticks to 5 ws and h- Good detail with most information relevant- Coach/participant comments are somewhat relevant but not prominent- Story occasionally presents examples/statistical data- If necessary or assigned, writer attempts to interpret action/plays/calls | - Lead lacks basic information- Lacking in detail or information relevancy- Very few/ ineffective Coach/participant comments- Story is limited in specific examples/ statistical data- When necessary or assigned, writer is ineffective in interpreting action/plays/calls  |
| Organization25 | - Information presented in logical fashion- The sentences flow logically - one very clearly leads into the next- Short, concise, unified paragraphs flow logically | - Information presented in mostly logical fashion- The sentences mostly flow logically - one clearly leads into the next- Short, concise, unified paragraphs mostly flow logically | - Information presented in somewhat logical fashion- The sentences sometimes flow logically - one generally leads into the next-  Paragraphs may be lengthy but may possess some degree of unity and logical flow | - Information not often presented in logical fashion- The sentences do not often flow logically-  Paragraphs too lengthy and possess little, if any, unity and logical flow |
| Conventions25 | -Thoroughly demonstrates mastery of AP/Hi-Lights writing and formatting styles- Nearly flawless grammar/ spelling/ punctuation | - Demonstrates strong hold on AP/Hi-Lights writing and formatting styles- Contains grammar/spelling/punctuation errors that begin to detract from the content | - Demonstrates developing hold on AP/Hi-Lights writing and formatting styles- Contains grammar/spelling/ punctuation errors that clearly detract from the content | - Demonstrates beginning hold on AP/Hi-Lights writing and formatting styles- Contains many grammar/spelling/punctuation errors; they overshadow the content |

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| Deadline | -40% if late; becomes a zero if two weeks or more late but still will be assessed |

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