***Tom Sawyer* News Article Assignment**

**Assignment:** You need to pick one event from *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain to “report” as a news reporter. You will write a news article that includes a lead and at least two quotes from two different characters. You have the freedom to choose any event from the book. Notable events are: the whitewashing scene, the day the boys went missing (but really were playing pirates on the island), the almost-murder of Widow Douglas, the trial of Muff Potter, or Tom and Becky getting lost in the cave. There are also many other events you could “report” on as well.

**How to write a lead:** A lead contains the answers to the five Ws (who, what, when, where, why, and sometimes how).

HOW

WHAT

WHY

WHO

***Example****: Injun Joe, after being accused of murder, fled the scene through the courtroom window of Muff Potter’s trial yesterday in Hannibal, Missouri.*

WHEN

WHERE

**Body paragraphs:** A news story is multiple paragraphs. Each time a person speaks, the news writer needs to insert dialogue.

***Example****: Patrons in the courtroom said that Muff Potter’s lawyer called a surprise witness to the stand toward the end of the trial. The witness was Tom Sawyer, local troublemaker.*

*“I saw Injun Joe stab Dr. Robinson in the graveyard, but my friend, Huck Finn, and I ran away right after the fight,” Sawyer said. “We didn’t know that Injun Joe tried to blame it on Muff Potter.”*

 *Upon hearing the accusation, Injun Joe promptly darted out the courtroom window.*

 *“It was lightening fast!” the courtroom clerk said. “One moment Tom was giving his testimony, and the next moment, Injun Joe had broken the window and was running away.”*

 *The police were unable to catch Injun Joe and he is still at large. The authorities are asking citizens who see any individual that looks like Injun Joe to tell the town sheriff.*

**Conclusion:** You can choose to conclude your news story with a quote or a summary that recaps the story. The example ends with a quote.

 *The sheriff said, “Injun Joe is a slimy and vengeful fellow. He may be disguised. Please be on the lookout for him.”*

**NEWS STORY RUBRIC**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Topic** | Explanation | Points |
| **LEAD** | The article has a lead that uses the 5 Ws. | \_\_\_\_\_ /8 |
| **BODY** | The article explains the event using supporting details from *Tom Sawyer*.  | \_\_\_\_\_ /10 |
| **QUOTES** | The article quotes at least two sources (characters). | \_\_\_\_\_ /8 |
| **CONCLUSION** | The article has an obvious conclusion.  | \_\_\_\_\_ /4 |
| **MECHANICS** | The article has been proofread and is free of spelling and grammar errors.  | \_\_\_\_\_ /5 |
| **TOTAL POINTS** | \_\_\_\_\_ /35 |