


Top 10 ways
To lower your grade
when you write a news story for class



Steve Stewart, February 2014

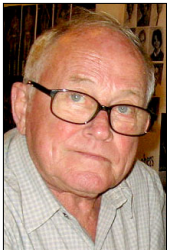
Lower your grade!

- 10.** Don't read the directions.
- 9.** Splice sentences together with commas, or use "they" when you mean "he," "she" or "it."
- 8.** Use a two-letter, all-caps state abbreviation that contains no periods, as in Troy, AL, or Hahira, GA.
- 7.** Don't use direct quotations, or screw them up.
- 6.** Ignore procedures for double-spacing and indenting paragraphs; just use the tab key.

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- 5.** "You mean *that's* in the APA Stylebook?"
- 4.** Just spell all names the way they sound.
- 3.** Don't send drafts — or send drafts, and then ignore advice.
- 2.** Put your opinion in the story, preferably using the word "I."
- 1.** Put the whole story in one paragraph.

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"Now, do you get the drift, or must I snow again?"

—Richard Tatum,
ninth-grade science teacher,
c. 1966