

[Teacher Note 🖱️ *The opening comments provide some general statements about the group and its process. Typically, these comments work well for all groups, and you rarely would need to alter them.]*

Congratulations on the publication of your newspaper –“The West Times.” For several reasons I enjoyed reading it. The paper serves as a culmination of the course, and within the project you can see how much you have learned throughout the semester. Your paper demonstrates that you have gained an understanding of news value and news judgment. You also have treated the readers to a variety of stories that will keep their attention. The paper contains items of entertainment as well as items of important information. You did a good job of creating a mix and a balance in the items you presented. In the individual stories reporters showed that they have learned effective organization and some principles of good journalism, including the use of sources to gather information, the use of quotes to highlight important information and the use of style to please the readers. Perhaps the most important element of the project was that your group met the deadlines. If you don't meet the deadlines, you have lost your chance to reach the readers.

Your group generally worked well on the project as different members of the group accepted tasks and met their responsibilities. You decided on a focus for your paper, then you came up with story ideas that fit into the sections of news, features, editorials/columns and sports. Reporters went out to gather those stories. Many of the stories show good reporting, where you have included comments and reactions from different sources. In some stories you could add more comments from sources. You also have included some columns with very personal stories that show the humanity of the writers. As time went on your group came up with an interesting name for your paper. The group had a clear focus and worked methodically toward completion and publication. You established clear deadlines and worked to meet them. In the final couple of days people willingly pitched in to assist with editing and layout issues. Your group owes XXX and XXX a tremendous amount of gratitude for the hours they spent organizing the work of producing and laying out the paper.

[Teacher Note 🖱️ *Evaluative comments become more specific here as some students have earned individual praise for their efforts.]*

[Teachers Note 🖱️ *The rest of the comments focus on specific attributes of the group's news product.]*

The paper's layout pleases the reader. On the front page, the flag catches the readers' eye. You have added color, which the reader will find appealing. Try to make headlines stretch over all the copy that relates to it. You went with a vertical layout, but a horizontal layout probably would have worked better. It would allow you to create blocks of text instead of ribbons of text. The headlines serve as good summaries of the stories they relate to. Headlines should be in sentence form, capitalizing only the first words and proper nouns. When a story continues, you provide good cues to the reader on how to follow the story. The index to give readers a sense of what else they might find in the paper. Inside the paper you include some section titles, but you

might cue the readers into each section: feature, opinion or sports. You have included some photos in the paper. In some places you might include more. You give the photographer photo credit. The margins make some of the stories difficult to read. Also, in some of the stories the layout cut parts of stories.

Overall, you should be proud of your efforts. The newspaper reflects much of what we studied throughout the semester. You have put together a solid newspaper, your group worked well together and people pitched in to achieve the common goal. Congratulations, and good work.

22.5/25