

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION
2014/2015 EXAMINATION QUESTION PAPER: MAIN

TITLE OF PAPER: NEWS WRITING

COURSE CODE: JMC 216

TIME ALLOWED: 2 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

Answer **THREE** questions.

Question 1 is **COMPULSORY**.

Spelling and grammar will count in grading.

Use your own examples to illustrate your answer(s).

**THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN
GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR**

QUESTION 1 (COMPULSORY)

Discuss at least five criteria to consider when deciding on the newsworthiness of a story.

(20 marks)

QUESTION 2

Describe the roles of the following in a newsroom:

- a) Reporter
- b) Sub-Editor
- c) Editor
- d) Photo journalist
- e) Specialist writer

(20 marks)

QUESTION 3

- a) Using examples discuss the differences between a hard news story and a soft news story.
- b) The intro or lede is the most crucial part of a news story. Why is this so and what should a journalist take into consideration when writing an intro or lede?

(20 marks)

QUESTION 4

In news writing, the same journalistic principles apply for both print and electronic media; however, the writing styles differ. Elaborate on the differences between the two.

(20 marks)

QUESTION 5

Identify a story idea. Discuss who your sources would be and what processes you would follow to get the best interviews.

(20 marks)

QUESTION 6

Write a radio news script from the following news release. Indicate where you would put your slug, intro, audio clips, links and outro. Your script should include a presenter's intro.

(20 marks)

US-ZOO-DEATH

WILD DOGS KILL 2-YEAR-OLD BOY AT US ZOO EXHIBIT

A mother's attempt to give her two-year-old son a better view of wild African dogs turned into a tragedy at the Pittsburgh Zoo after the boy fell into the exhibit and was killed by a pack of the animals as relatives and bystanders looked on.

Lt. Kevin Kraus of the Pittsburgh police said the attack happened at about 11:45 a.m. Sunday after the mother picked the child up and put him on top of a railing at the edge of a viewing deck. "Almost immediately after that he lost his balance, fell down off the railing into the pit, and he was immediately attacked by 11 dogs," Kraus said. "It was very horrific."

It's not yet clear whether the boy died from the fall or the attack, said Barbara Baker, president of the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium. Zoo officials at first estimated the boy fell 14 feet (4.2 meters), but police said it was 11 feet (3.3 meters). It's not clear which is correct.

Authorities said that zoo staff and then police responded "within minutes" but visitors described that time as being filled with screams for help. Zookeepers called off some of the dogs, and seven of them immediately went to a back building. Three more eventually were drawn away from the child, but the last dog was aggressive and police had to shoot the animal.

Experts said the death is highly unusual.

Steve Feldman, a spokesman for the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, said no one he's spoken to can recall any deaths of children at an accredited zoo over the last 40 years or more. Feldman said the Pittsburgh Zoo successfully completed its 5-year review in September, which means it meets or exceeds all safety standards.

Authorities didn't release the name of the boy or his mother, but say she is 34 years old and lives in Pleasant Hills, just outside Pittsburgh. The boy's father arrived on the scene soon after the accident, police said.

The zoo was immediately closed, and it was not clear when it will reopen, authorities said.

Police and the Allegheny County medical examiner's office are investigating, and they haven't yet interviewed the mother or father, who are receiving grief counselling.

Baker said the zoo, which has never had a visitor death, will also investigate. She said no decision has been made yet on the future of the exhibit.