Com 3210

**Reading Questions: Creative Editing, Chapter 1**

As you read the entire chapter, answer these questions clearly and thoroughly. Please remember that you are responsible for all the material covered in the chapter, whether discussed in class or not. You may type or write your answers.

1. What are the chief duties of a copy editor?
2. What are the characteristics of a good copy editor?
3. What would the attributes of an “almost perfect” copy editor?
4. How does the editing process begin before a story is written?
5. Briefly summarize the steps in the story editing process after the story is written.
6. Review the list of news values on the attached page.

**Assignment:**

In a separate document, do exercises 7, 8, 9, 10. (Exercises in back of text beginning on page 283.)
Supplemental Notes: The Copy Editor's Role in the Newsroom (Creative Editing, Chapter 1)

Here are the news values listed in Chapter 1 of Creative Editing.

♦ **Timeliness**: Something that happens today has more reader impact than something that happened yesterday. Timeliness means that up-to-the-minute information is valuable.

♦ **Proximity**: Something that happens nearby physically or geographically is important to readers, but so is information about others who share a common interest, such as those who anticipate in the same on-line discussion groups.

♦ **Prominence**: People who are well known or hold positions of authority, such as the president of the United States, often are newsmakers. But others in the community often have interesting stories, too.

♦ **Relevance**: A story often has an impact on its audience, whether emotional or rational. The more people who are affected by the consequences of the story, the more significant the story will be.

♦ **Unusualness**: It’s not usually big news if it snows in Colorado in January. But snow in Colorado in June could be newsworthy because it would be out of the ordinary.

♦ **Conflict**: Whether personal or institutional, we all deal with conflict in our daily lives, from minor fender-bender accidents to labor strikes to courtroom trials, and conflicts often are newsworthy. But journalists should always remember that conflicts involve more than two extreme positions. Many different views can be represented.

♦ **Human Interest**: Stories that touch readers' lives and may help them improve their lives are newsworthy. People like stories about people who have special problems, achievements or experiences. These stories can be profiles or unusual stories about people that make readers care about their plight.

Don’t forget these additional news values, or qualities, as well:

♦ **Helpfulness**: Consumer, health, and other how-to stories help people cope with complaints, anxieties or worries or make wiser or more informed choices in their lives.

♦ **Entertainment**: Stories that amuse readers, make them feel good or help them enjoy their leisure time have entertainment value. In a broad sense, many of the new features in sports and lifestyle sections can be classified entertainment. Entertainment stories often involve people of prominence or have human-interest qualities.

♦ **Special Interest**: Some stories appeal to people's interest in such subjects as science, business or religion or to such special interest groups as women, minorities, disabled people, veterans, college students or other groups with particular interests.

♦ **Issues or Problems in the community**: These stories usually include qualities such as conflict and proximity.

♦ **Trends**: Stories may indicate patterns or shifts in issues that influence readers' lives, such as increases in crime, social issues and other forces in society.