

Exercise 1: Transitions

INSTRUCTIONS: Critically evaluate the following transitions. Which transitions provide the smoothest and most specific, informative and interesting introductions to the next idea? After evaluating the transitions, give each of them a grade of from "A" to "F."

1. Why would a former nurse open a hot dog stand? (Grade: _____)
2. He went on to provide guidelines and hints by which journalists might hone their skills. (Grade: _____)
3. The council heard representatives of the Coalition for the Homeless, a non-profit organization, explain why the city needs a new shelter. (Grade: _____)
4. Asian students said they expected Americans to be friendlier. (Grade: _____)
5. The problem library officials are most concerned about is smoking. (Grade: _____)
6. Only 23 percent of the women said they would like to give up their jobs and stay home to raise their family. (Grade: _____)
7. Frank Yamer, a business major, also encountered a number of problems when he transferred from another school. (Grade: _____)
8. The university's math department awards the lowest percentage of As (14.1 percent) and the highest percentage of Fs (15.6 percent). (Grade: _____)
9. Officials explained how the plan will ease overcrowding at the three schools. (Grade: _____)
10. A man who lives across the road was working outside at the time and saw the accident. (Grade: _____)
11. Forty percent of the teenagers said they never worry about catching AIDS. (Grade: _____)
12. Dr. Kostyn said there is a shortage of about 2,200 certified math and science teachers in the state. (Grade: _____)

Exercise 2: Second Paragraphs

INSTRUCTIONS: Critically evaluate the second paragraph in the following stories. Which of the second paragraphs are most successful in: (1) providing a smooth transition from the lead, (2) continuing to discuss the topic summarized in the lead, and (3) emphasizing the news: details that are new, important and interesting? After evaluating the transitions, give each of them a grade of from "A" to "F."

1. Jewel C. Harris, 42, of 2245 E. Broadway Ave. was arrested and charged with aggravated battery after her car struck a bicyclist, police say.
Jerry R. Harris, 24, also of 2245 E. Broadway Ave., was transported to Memorial Hospital with cuts, bruises and a broken leg. (Grade: _____)
2. The School Board has expelled eight more students for using drugs, bringing the total this year to 81.
Only one of the eight students appeared before the board last night to defend herself. She was accused of selling marijuana to a classmate. (Grade: _____)
3. The new Alcohol Information Center on campus acknowledges a slow start with its responsible drinking program. But program coordinators have plans to change that.
Karen Dees is one of the program's coordinators. She wants to make sure that students understand the philosophy of responsible drinking. "We're not affiliated with any religious sect," she said. "Our main goal is to keep heavy drinkers off the streets and keep them from harming themselves and others." (Grade: _____)
4. County Commissioner Anne Chen wants pornographic movies banned from cable TV.
In an interview Friday, Chen said that watching pornography can be psychologically damaging to children. "I'm not talking about R-rated movies," she said. "I'm talking about hard-core stuff that shows animals, whips and chains used in sexual acts." (Grade: _____)
5. A man claiming to have a bomb tried to rob the First Federal Savings and Loan Co. at 9:05 a.m. today.
A man carrying a brown paper bag told a teller that it contained a bomb and that he would kill everyone in the bank unless she gave him \$10,000. (Grade: _____)
6. A 22-year-old auto mechanic and his wife delivered their triplets at home Monday because there was not time to drive to a birthing clinic.
Barbara and Paul Wyman of 2020 Lorry Lane delivered their triplets at 4:30 a.m. The babies and their mother are reported in excellent condition. (Grade: _____)
7. Complaining that college administrators are insensitive to their needs, 50 handicapped students, some in wheelchairs, picketed the Administration Building Friday.
About 10 percent of the student population is handicapped, but there is no way of determining how many there really are. When the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 was passed, the disclosure of information about handicapped students was prohibited. The law is intended to ensure that a handicapped student is not discriminated against and denied entrance into a college. (Grade: _____)
8. The police in Reno, Nev., feel safer and more confident since the PR-24 Baton replaced their night stick.
Officer Jim Balliet said the concept of a baton was derived from a martial arts weapon called the tonfa. Lon Anderson, a New Hampshire police officer, developed the baton and brought the idea to a company to manufacture it, Balliet said. (Grade: _____)
9. Two soldiers who were abducted, robbed and tied in a woods said their captors apologized, saying they became robbers in order to feed their children.
The young couple told the soldiers that they had also abducted several other people but never enjoyed it. (Grade: _____)
10. Peter Laguna, a 24-year-old Alabama man, went on trial Wednesday on charges of armed robbery.
The first witness was Lynita Sharp, a clerk who was working at the convenience store when it was robbed on July 18. (Grade: _____)
11. The School Board voted Tuesday to construct an elementary school on Grant Avenue.
Two years ago, the Meadow Woods Subdivision offered to give the board land for the school. (Grade: _____)

12. A 22-year-old man today pleaded innocent to violating his probation, arguing that his poor education made it impossible for him to understand the instructions given by his parole officer. The defendant, Henry Forlenza, told the judge that he dropped out of high school and never learned to read. (Grade: _____)

Exercise 3: Writing Complete News Stories

INSTRUCTIONS: Write complete news stories based on the following information. Critically examine the information's language and organization, improving it whenever possible. To provide a pleasing change of pace, also use some quotations in your stories. Go beyond the superficial; unless your instructor tells you otherwise, assume that you have enough space to report every important and interesting detail. Correct any errors you may find in grammar, spelling, punctuation and AP style. Refer to the directory in your textbook for the proper spelling of names.

1. It was almost like a popular movie titled "Home Alone" that you may have happened to see in a theater or on a tape at home on your VCR. It involved an 11-year-old girl in your city, Andrea Jones of 4851 Edmee Cir. When you interviewed her today, Andrea said she doesn't feel much like a hero. "I was scared," she said. "I thought he was going to see me and beat me up or something if he got in, so I tried to hide at first." In fact, Andrea used her imagination—and a baseball bat—to thwart a would-be burglar who tried to break into her family's home when she was home alone. The incident began when Andrea was home alone, watching television at approximately 6 p.m. last night. Her parents and 3 sisters had left the house to go pick up a pizza for dinner. They had been gone for only a few minutes and were due back very shortly. Andrea told you that she was watching television and heard a noise. "I saw a man at the window and ran to my bedroom to hide in the closet," she said. "Then I remembered the bat there. I went back into the dining room and saw this guy opening the window. He put his hand in first. He was coming in the window, and had his left hand on a table there. I took the bat and hit it as hard as I could. I, uh, really smashed it hard. He screamed like real loud, man, and ran away. Then, uh, I called 911." Police Detective Jack Noonan was at the scene and, when questioned by you, commented on the case, stating that: "Preferably, we would like to see someone in an incident like this call 911 first. It's safer that way. Someone could get really hurt in a situation like this. In this case, the girl was lucky. She kept her head, and she was really brave about it. She was home alone and decided she should protect herself and her house. She must have really walloped the guy. There's a lot of blood on the window and table, so now we're looking for someone who's injured." Police found the bad guy later last night. After the break-in, they notified hospital emergency wards to be on the look-out for a man suffering from trauma to his left hand and, shortly after 1 a.m., received a call from the Regional Medical Center, where a man matching a description Andrea gave the police came in for treatment of a very badly cut, broken, swollen, and painful left hand. He has been arrested and charged with attempted burglary. Police identified the man as Steven Jabil, 23, of 800 Crestbrook Loop, Apt. 314.
2. It was a fatal accident and involved two small planes. They collided at an estimated height of 800 feet above your city shortly after 8:30 a.m. today. Three people were aboard the planes. No one on the ground was seriously hurt, although the wreckage fell on and near several homes. "It could have been a lot worse," Police Chief Barry Koperud said. "People living in the area were very fortunate." The dead include the pilot of one plane, identified as Sharon Noruse of 4740 Valley View Lane. She was flying a single-engine Piper Cub. It collided in the air with a single-engine Cessna 172. The Piper, which was towing a banner, belonged to Aerial Promotions, Inc., said police. The pilot, Nouse, had worked for Aerial Promotions, Inc. for three months. The Cessna, carrying a flight instructor and his student, belonged to the Pratt Air Academy. The names of the two deceased individuals in the Cessna were withheld pending notification of their next of kin. Both businesses are located at the Municipal Airport. The Cessna crashed into the roof of the house owned by Bobby and Dawn Correia of 9542 Holbrook Dr. Some members of the family—Mrs. Correia and their youngest child, a boy named Sean, age four—were home at the time and ran out when the Cessna slammed into their home. They were not injured at all. The Correias retired to the home of a neighbor who said they were too distraught to be interviewed. Other family members later joined them there. A block away, Mr. and Mrs. Elton Amanpour and their two children, Casey and Carmen, were eating dinner when the Piper fell in front of their house at 823 E. Pierce Av. A fuel tank from the Cessna smashed into the ground in front of Trina Greenhouse, who was smoking a cigarette on her front porch at 9557 Holbrook Dr. She was taken to Regional Medical Center after she complained that fuel got into her eyes and was burning them. According to other

eyewitnesses, the two planes were very close to each other. People at the airport said the planes apparently tried to land at the same time. They are in the process of reviewing air traffic control tapes to determine which plane had been given clearance to land. Some witnesses said they heard a dull thud moments before the planes plummeted to the ground. Ronald Lin said he was standing in his back yard at 6287 Airport Boulevard when the collision occurred. "It was a loud, dull impact," he said. "There was no explosion. It was more like a blunt impact. I looked up and couldn't believe what I was seeing. There was a moment when both planes just seemed to stop in midair for a second, and then they both fell to the ground." Lori Kaeppler of 9540 Holbrook Dr., a neighbor of the Correias, said, "When it first hit, it sounded like a car hit our house or something. I ran to the front door and yelled to my husband, 'Call 911, we have a plane in the Correias house.' There wasn't any fire or anything, and I went in the house to see if I could help. I spotted this one guy in the wreckage in the kitchen, almost cut in half. Before our children were born, I worked as a nurse, and I reached in to feel his pulse but couldn't find it. Later, I saw the other guy sprawled on our roof. He must have been thrown there and, obviously, he was dead." Witnesses said it appeared the Cessna clipped the wing of the banner plane, then got caught up in the banner, sending both to the ground.

3. Some said she shouldn't be charged with murder. She wasn't. She's a doctor. She had a patient with leukemia. She admitted helping her patient commit suicide. Today she was cleared by a state board of charges of misconduct. The 7-member board—your states Board for Professional Medical Conduct—could have revoked her license to practice medicine. Instead it concluded that the actions of Dr. Catrina Lowrie were "legal and ethically appropriate." Lowrie is an internist at the Regional Medical Center in your city. No one might have known what she did, but she described it in a public speech sponsored by your city's chapter of the Hemlock Society, and an anonymous caller called the police about what she said. In the speech she described how she prescribed barbiturates for a patient and made sure the patient knew how many to take to kill herself. The patient, who has since been identified as Irma Cain of 427 Hidden Lane, was 37 years old and, her husband and parents said, in terrible, hopeless pain. They supported the doctor in the matter, their attorney said, but they refused to talk to you about it. Cain decided to commit suicide rather than undergo chemotherapy for cancer which would have given her only a 25% chance of survival. Her death occurred six months ago. Last month, a grand jury investigated the matter and then cleared the doctor of criminal responsibility for the woman's death. Now the board, which issued its ruling late yesterday, said that the doctor did nothing medically improper in prescribing the barbiturates because "she could not have known with certainty what use a patient might make of the drug she prescribed, and which was totally appropriate and needed by her patient." Lowrie said in a statement that the ruling "seemed like a very thoughtful decision." The members of the board stated that they were not condoning "so-called assisted suicide." They added that this case differed from other recently publicized cases in that Lowrie had a longstanding relationship with her patient. In addition, she did not directly take part in ending her patient's life. Rather, she prescribed pills needed to alleviate the patient's pain, and the patient, by herself, took them all at once in a successful attempt to terminate her own life and very painful suffering from the deadly disease.
4. Janet C. Herholtz is a professor of sociology at the University of Wyoming. She was in town today to give a speech at the annual convention of the American Association of Sociologists. During her speech, she discussed the topic of murder, about which she wrote her Ph.D. dissertation. She is also in the process of writing a book about murder and, at the University of Wyoming, teaches an unusual course titled, "The Epidemic of Murder." She explains that each year one out of every 10,000 Americans is murdered, and that in five years more Americans are murdered than were killed during the entire war in Vietnam. Yet, she said, many popular stereotypes about murder are false, totally without foundation. "The most likely murderer is a victim's relative," she explained. "Almost a third of all victims are related to their killers. The murderers are husbands, wives, lovers, neighbors, friends and acquaintances—people who can no longer endure chronic frustrations. Most murders are committed by men in their 20s—often because they blame other people rather than themselves for their problems. In two-thirds of the murders, they use guns. I should mention the fact that the probability of being murdered varies from one area of the country to another and from one race to another. People in the South are three times more likely to be murdered than people living in New England, and people who live in a large city are twice as likely to be

murdered as people living in a suburb or rural area. Also, black men are 10 times more likely to be murdered than white men, and black women five times more than white women. In 90 percent of the cases, blacks are murdered by blacks, and whites by whites." Dr. Herholtz blames the use of alcohol for many murders, along with drugs, rising frustrations, permissive parents, joblessness and marital instability.

5. What can you do to maximize the span of your life? Raymond W. Herron, author of a book titled, "Centenarians," autographed copies of his book at area bookstores today and, during a press conference at 9:30 a.m. this morning, answered the questions of local reporters from newspapers and radio and television stations in the area. In response to their questions, he said a major factor is work. "Old age is not a time to be sedentary, but to be active. Work is an invaluable remedy against premature old age—hard work. If you study the background of people who live to be 100, you'll find few of them are lazy. Most worked hard all their lives, and many are still working." Herron noted that Russia claims to have almost 20,000 centenarians, many more than any other country in the world, and that the highest age claimed by Russia is 167, attained by Shirali Mislimov, who passed away in the year 1982. Herron noted that Russia reports that healthy old people seem to have several characteristics in common. Most live in rural areas. More than 99 percent are married. Most have large families. All are moderate eaters and drinkers and stick to a regular diet of plain foods. Much of their work is physical. Other studies, Herron continued, have found that people seem to live longer if they live in high places, drink well water and talk a lot. In the United States, he continued, researchers often note the effects of "pension illness"—the fact that people who retire deteriorate quickly in health and mind and often die within a few years after reaching their 65th birthdays, whereas people who continue to work maintain a better health and enjoy considerably longer lives. What are the average American's chances of living to be 100? Less than 1 out of 50,000, responded Herron.

Exercise 4: Writing Complete News Stories

INSTRUCTIONS: Write complete news stories based on the following information. Critically examine the information's language and organization, improving it whenever possible. To provide a pleasing change of pace, if there is quoted material in the information provided, use some quotations in your stories. Go beyond the superficial; unless your instructor tells you otherwise, assume that you have enough space to report every important and interesting detail. Correct any errors you may find in grammar, spelling, punctuation and AP style. Refer to the directory in your textbook for the proper spelling of names.

1. There's a totally new idea starting to be implemented in your city. Some call it "a pilot program." Others call it "a satellite school." Your School Board likes the idea because it saves the board money. Businesses like it because it helps them attract and retain good employees. There was a meeting of your city's School Board last night. Greg Hubbard, superintendent of your city's school system, recommended the idea, and the School Board then proceeded to vote 6-1 in favor of trying the new idea. What's the idea? It's to mix companies and classrooms. Recently, plans were announced to construct a major new General Electric manufacturing plant in your city. The plant will employ a total of more than 600 employees, many of them women who will work on assembly lines, helping make small appliances for the new General Electric plant. To attract and retain qualified women, many of whom have young children, the plant wants a school to be located on its premises. It offered to provide, free of charge, free space: to construct a separate building on its premises with 3 rooms built according to the School Board's specifications. It's the wave of the future, Hubbard told the School Board last night. It's a win-win situation, he added. He explained that it is a good employee benefit, and it helps ease crowding in the district's schools if some students go elsewhere. The details are being negotiated. To start with at first, the school will have three rooms and serve about 60 kindergarten and first-grade children of employees. The school district will equip the classrooms and pay the salaries of a teacher and a teacher's aide for each classroom. At this point in time there are only approximately 20 school districts in the entire country trying the idea. Students will eat in the factory's employee cafeteria and play on a playground also provided by the new factory. Parents will provide transportation to and from the facility. Equipping each classroom will cost in the neighborhood of approximately \$10,000. The price is about the same as for a regular classroom. Hubbard said if the program is successful, it will expand to other companies. A company will have to supply a minimum of 20 children to justify the cost of the program which could, if successful, serve young students in 2nd and possibly 3rd grades as well. The program is thought to attract and retain more employees-to reduce the rate of attrition, thus saving companies the cost of training new employees. That is especially important in industries with many low-paying positions in which there is often a high turnover. It's also a solution to working parents who feel there is never enough time to spend with their children. Hubbard said one of the nice things is that many will have the opportunity to ride to and from work and also have lunch with their children.
2. They're all heroes, but no one knows exactly how many of them there are, nor all their identities. They were shopping late yesterday evening at the Colonial Mall in your city. The mall closes at 10 p.m., and it was about 9:50 pm when the incident occurred. There was a serious incident: a robbery. Among the other stores in the mall is a jewelry store: Elaine's Jewelry. An unidentified man walked into the store and, before anyone could respond, pulled out a hammer, smashed two display cases, and then proceeded to scoop up with his hands handfuls of jewelry, mostly watches and rings. Elaine Benchfield is the owner of the store, and also its manager, and she was present at the time and began screaming quite loudly. People heard her screams, saw the man flee, and, according to witnesses, 8 or 10 people began pursuing the man through the mall. As the chase proceeded, the posse grew in number. "Things like that just make me mad," explained Keith Holland, one of the shoppers who witnessed the crime and joined the posse. The chase ended in one of the shopping mall's parking lots. Once outside in the parking lot, even more people started joining the posse, yelling at and chasing the man. Asa Smythe, a jogger who says he jogs a distance of 20 miles a week, said he knew the man might out-sprint him for a short distance, but that he also knew he was going to follow the man to hell if he had to. "He couldn't lose me, no way he could lose me," Smythe said. Smythe is a former high school football player and Marine. He succeeded in

catching up with and tackling the man. More shoppers, an estimated 15 or 20 by police, then surrounded the man, holding him there in the parking lot until police reached the scene. The people stood in a circle around the man, threatening him, but also applauding and shaking hands among themselves, proud of their accomplishment. The suspect has since then been identified by police officers as Todd Burnes, age 23, of 1502 Matador Dr., Apt. 302. He has been charged with grand theft and is being held on \$25,000 bond at the county jail. Police officer Barbara Keith-Fowler, the first officer to reach the scene, said she thinks Burnes was happy to see her. Burnes was not armed, and was apparently frightened, police said, by the crowd. At one point in the chase he threw them the bag of loot, apparently hoping they would stop following him. A bystander retrieved the bag and returned it to Blanchfield, who said it contained everything stolen from her store. A grateful Blanchfield then proceeded to tell you, when you called her on the phone, that the people who helped her were a super bunch of people and made her feel wonderful. Blanchfield added that she thinks "people responded as they did because they are sick and tired of people getting ripped off."

3. Its a most unusual controversy. It involves an act at a circus the Shriners in your city put on to raise money for their charitable activities. In addition, the Shriners, who put the circus on every year at this time in your city, invite free of charge hundreds of the citys ill, mentally handicapped and needy children. One of everyones favorite acts involves six cats that look like rather typical household pets. The circus opened last Friday, with shows to continue every nite at 8 p.m. this week through this coming Saturday evening. There will also be a show at 2 pm Saturday afternoon. After seeing the first shows last weekend, some people began to complain about an act put on by Sandra Kidder of Farmers Branch, Texas, a suburb of Dallas. Kidder travels from city to city with the circus and explains that she enjoys traveling and loves her animals, all cats. The cats dive through flaming hoops, and thats what people have complained about. Her cats do it for love, Kidder said when you interviewed her today. They'll do anything for her, she said, because she loves them and they love her. Someone, however, filed a complaint with the citys Humane Society. The complaint charges that Kidder terrifies and starves her cats, endangering their lives to get them to do the trick. Annette Daigle, who filed the complaint, resides in her home at 431 E. Central Blvd. Her complaint states that the cats are forced to perform highly unnatural behaviors for them-that the last thing a cat wants to do is go near fire. Diagle said she is not the only one concerned about the cats welfare but that other people who also feel the way she does that the cats are being starved, terrorized, endangered, and abused don't want to get involved in the controversy. Kidder responded to you that she feeds her cats one good meal a day at the end of their performance. She couldn't do it sooner, she said, because, if they had just eaten, her cats would fall asleep in the middle of their act. Kidder then went on to add that she would never do anything to hurt or endanger her cats. In addition to jumping through flaming hoops, her cats during each act also leap from stool to stool; jump high in the air; stand on their hind legs; stand on their front legs; sit on their haunches in the begging position like dogs; and walk across a stretched wire, like tight-rope walkers. She calls them her "fabulous flying felines." They're professionals, she concluded. Finally, in addition, Kidder added that its easier for her cats to jump through the flaming rings than to master many of the other, simpler-looking tricks. They're not scared of the flaming hoops, she insists. They're only scared if someone is mean to them. They need to feel that you love them. The hardest thing for them to learn to do is to stand up on their hind legs. Its not natural for them, but they'll do it for her. She also further revealed that they're not special cats. Friends gave her some. She picked up others at a pound. Renee Chung-Peters, head of your citys Humane Society, said she is in the process of investigating the complaint. Chung-Peters said she will watch tonights show and hopes to examine all the cats immediately after the show. When you contacted Kidder, she said that she has no objections to that.
4. An estimated 12,000 people in your city and surrounding area will be affected by the news. A chain of health spas called "Mr. Muscles" is closing. Its the areas largest spa, with 6 clubs located throughout the city. It closed without warning. The company is owned by Mike Cantral of 410 South Street. Normally, the spas open at 6 a.m. and, when people went to them today, they found a simple notice taped to the doors at all 6 saying, "Closed Until Further Notice." Cantral was unavailable. His attorney, Jena Cruz, said the company is bankrupt and she doesn't expect it to reopen. She said she will file a bankruptcy petition for the spas in federal court, probably early next week. Hundreds and hundreds of regular members showed up at the clubs today and found the doors locked, the lights out, and the equipment inside sitting

unused. Employees, estimated to total 180 in number, were also surprised. They said they did not know the spas were in trouble and had no inkling they were about to close. Several said they are worried about whether or not they will be paid for their work during the last two weeks. They are paid every two weeks, and their normal payday is tomorrow. Some members paid up to \$499 a year for use of the facilities. Some have paid for 3 or 5-year memberships. An undetermined number bought lifetime memberships for \$3,999. The clubs have been open for more than 15 years. The state Department of Consumer Affairs is investigating the closing. Kim Eng, director of the department, said "I do not know if any members can get refunds on their memberships but if the company goes bankrupt that seems unlikely." Cruz said the clubs were losing a total of \$3,000 a week. She added that there is no money left to return to members. The state attorneys office is also investigating members complaints. The company opened its first spa in 1981, then began an aggressive expansion program. Atty. Cruz said, "The company borrowed money to buy land for its spas and to build the spas, each of which cost a total of well over a million dollars to build and equip, and it has not been selling enough new memberships in recent months to make the payments on all its loans."

5. It was a dreadfully tragic incident and involved a 7-year-old girl in your city: Tania Abondanzio, the daughter of Anthony and Deborah Abbondanzia. The girl was admitted to Mercy Hospital last Friday morning. She was driven to the hospital by her parents. She was operated on later that morning for a tonsillectomy. She died Saturday morning. Hospital officials investigating the death announced, during a press conference this morning, that they have now determined the apparent cause of death: that the girl was given the wrong medication by a pediatric nurse. They did not identify the nurse, saying only that she has been suspended, pending completion of the investigation. The girls parents were unavailable for comment. Tania was a 2nd grade student at Washington Elementary School. Her physician, Dr. Priscilla Eisen, prescribed a half milligram of a pain reliever, morphine sulphate, after surgery. Hospital records show that, somehow, by mistake, the nurse gave the girl a half milligram of hydromorphone, a stronger pain reliever commonly known as Dilaudid. The victim was given the drug at 2:30 p.m. Friday afternoon and developed severe respiratory problems at 2:40 p.m. She also complained of being hot and went into an apparent seizure. An autopsy conducted over the weekend to determine the cause of her problems showed results, also announced during the press conference today, that were consistent with the hospitals report, police said. Police are treating the death as accidental. After developing respiratory problems, the girl was immediately transferred from the medical facilitys pediatrics ward to the intensive care ward and remained in a coma until Saturday morning, when doctors pronounced her brain dead. She was then taken off a respirator and died minutes later at 9:40 a.m. Saturday morning. The nurse involved in the unfortunate incident noticed she had apparently administered the wrong drug during a routine narcotics inventory when the shifts changed at midnight Friday. She immediately and promptly notified her supervisor. The two drugs are kept side by side together in a locked cabinet. Hospital officials said a dosage of a half-milligram of hydromorphone is not normally considered to be lethal, not even for a child. Dr. Irwin Greenhouse, hospital administrator, said in a statement released to the press today that, "Our sympathy goes out to the family, and we will stay close to them to provide support." He declined to comment further. Hydromorphone, a narcotic used to treat pain, is six to seven times more potent than morphine. Children sometimes are given a half milligram of hydromorphone to control coughing, a druggist you consulted said. The druggist added that the dosage did not sound outrageous to her, but rather sounded very reasonable, as a matter of fact. The drug is generally used for pain relief after surgery or as medication before an operation, the druggist also informed you, asking that she not be identified by name, a request that you agreed to honor.
6. A lone man robbed a bank in the city. He entered the Security Federal Bank, 814 North Main Street, at about 2:30 p.m. yesterday. Bank officials said he first went into the bank with the excuse of obtaining information about a loan, talked to a loan officer and then left. When he returned a few minutes later, he was brandishing a pistol and demanded money from the banks tellers. Gladys Anne Higginbotham, the banks manager, said he forced two tellers to lie on the floor. He then jumped behind a counter and scooped up the money from five cash drawers. As the gunman scooped up the money, he also scooped up a small exploding device disguised to look like a packet of money and stuffed it into his pockets along with the rest of the cash. The device contains red dye and tear gas and automatically explodes after a specified amount of time. The length of time before the explosion is determined by each

individual bank using the device. The device is activated when someone walks out of a bank with it. As the gunman left the bank, he ordered four customers to lie down on the floor. Most of the customers were unaware of the robbery until told to get down on the floor. Witnesses believe the gunman sped away from the scene in a pickup truck parked behind the building. Police say they found a red stain in the rear parking lot and surmise that the device exploded just as the robber was getting into the truck. An eyewitness told police he saw a late-model black pickup truck a few blocks away with a red cloud coming out the window a few moments after the robbery but was unable to get the license number. Detective Myron A. Neeley said, "That guy should be covered with red. The money, too. Just look for a red man with red money. You can't wash that stuff off. It just has to wear off. It explodes all over the place-in your clothes, in your hair, on your hands, in your car. Its almost like getting in contact with a skunk." An FBI agent on the scene added that many banks now use the protective devices in an effort to foil bank robbers and that the stain will eventually wear off humans but stays on money forever. He estimated that the man will be covered with the red dye for at least the next two or three days. The man was described as a white man. He is between the ages of 25 and 30 years of age. He is about 6 feet tall. He weighs about 180 pounds. He has long blond hair. His attire includes wire-rimmed sunglasses, a gold wedding ring, a blue plaid shirt, blue jeans and brown sandals.

Exercise 5: Writing Complete Stories

INSTRUCTIONS: Write complete news stories based on the following information. Be thorough; include most of the information provided for your stories. Because much of the material is wordy, awkward and poorly organized, it will have to be extensively rewritten. Correct any errors you may find in grammar, spelling, punctuation and AP style. Refer to the directory in your textbook for the proper spelling of names.

1. The announcement is a major one. It was made at a press conference this morning in the office of Enrico Lowdes, director of the Regional Medical Center. The announcement is that the hospital is one of 10 medical facilities located throughout the entire United States selected to participate in an important new study the purpose of which is to determine whether or not a new technique will be successful in helping smokers stop smoking. The hospital will not accept volunteers to participate in the experiment. Rather, Lowdes said, doctors in the city will be asked to refer a total of 800 of their patients who smoke and want to stop smoking to the hospital for participation in the experiment. Lowdes noted that nicotine is as addictive as cocaine or heroin. That may explain why 28% of adult Americans smoke. Experts estimate that as many as 90% of those who now smoke say they would like to quit. Many have tried to kick the habit many times but failed. The most difficult part of kicking the habit, Lowdes said, is acute withdrawal symptoms ranging from physical cravings, nervousness, irritation, difficulty concentrating, difficulty sleeping, and changes in appetite. That is why the Regional Medical Center sought to be one of 10 medical facilities in the United States to test a new nicotine patch that may help smokers who want to discontinue the habit ease the pain of withdrawal. Lowdes explained that smokers asked to participate in the study will be prescribed adhesive patches. They will be instructed that, as soon as they get up in the morning, they are to apply one of the patches to their upper body. The patch releases a steady level of nicotine throughout the day. It is less nicotine, however, than that provided by cigarettes—but is thought to be enough to alleviate withdrawal symptoms. Nicotine gum is designed to work in much the same way, but some evidence indicates that the patch may be more effective because some people find the gum hard to chew, chew it improperly, or don't use it in sufficient quantity. The 800 patients will be monitored monthly for an entire year in an attempt to determine how many are helped by the patches: how many succeed in stopping smoking over a period of 1 year. Lowdes added finally that the patch may also help smokers quit smoking without gaining as much weight as sometimes happens to smokers who quit the habit.
2. Gus DiCesare, your county's sheriff, appeared before the County Commission today. He made an unusual and unique proposal that he says will save the county money—and help beautify it, all at the same time. He proposed that trustees in his county jail should be taken from the jail six days a week, Monday through Saturday, to clean the county's roadways of trash and other debris. He said all he needs is a truck to take several inmates to roadsides in need of cleaning and to haul away the debris. The trustees will wear their regular jailhouse uniforms: bright orange in color. They will work in crews of 8 or 10 and will be guarded by two armed officers with radio communication. Sheriff DeCesare admitted, "Any time you work prisoners outside the institution, there is always a slight risk of escape. So we're not going to put Jack the Ripper out there." He said that he's not worried about escapes, however. He thinks they are highly unlikely. He explained that inmates on the road crews will be trustees carefully chosen by his staff. Corrections officers will screen inmates who have been sentenced, weeding out sex offenders and those guilty of assaults and other serious crimes. Likely candidates will be those convicted of theft, fraud, drunken driving, writing bad checks, and petty larceny, for example. DeCesare added, while seeing how the program works initially, the crews will work in more remote areas of the county. He further explained that all the trustees will be serving sentences of less than a year and, if they escape, they would be liable for sentencing of up to five more years in a state prison. The county used road crews until the 1970s. Officials abolished them then because some people began to complain that the county was exploiting the prisoners and that it was degrading for them to work along roadways where everyone could see them and know they were criminals. The sheriff said he was a deputy then, and many inmates were unhappy when the county abandoned the practice. Now, they will be paid about 25 cents an hour for their work. Also, for each month they work, four days will be taken

off their sentence. The sheriff said he does not expect a problem finding volunteers. Most inmates like to work, he said. It makes their time go faster. A lot of them would work seven days a week if you let them, anything to get out of their cells, he said. Prisoners inside the jail, helping with the cleaning and cooking there, are also paid 25 cents an hour, and money for some prisoners salaries is already budgeted in the Sheriffs Departments annual budget. Kerwin Dawkins, head of the countys Public Works Department, was also at the meeting and supported the idea. He agreed to provide all the necessary trucks. He said he likes the idea because the county needs crews to clean both roadways and parks and, since the labor costs are low, the plan will save his department money as well as benefit the public. Dawkins further stated that he firmly believes that the program will also be popular with the public because people will like to see the jails inmates work. If successful, the program will expand to include more inmates and more trucks.

Exercise 6: Reporting Controversial Stories (Quoting Opposing Viewpoints)

INSTRUCTIONS: Write complete news stories about the following controversies. As you write the stories, present both sides of each controversy as fully and as fairly as possible. Also, try to integrate those conflicting viewpoints. Instead of reporting all the opinions voiced by the first source, and then all the conflicting opinions voiced by the second source, try—when appropriate—to report both opinions about the story's most important issue, and then both opinions about the second, third and fourth issues. Correct any errors you may find in grammar, spelling, punctuation and AP style. Refer to the directory in your textbook for the proper spelling of names.

STORY 1: POLICE RESPONSE TIME

FACTS: Two armed gunmen robbed the Jewelry Shoppe at 1118 Main Street at about noon yesterday. They escaped with about \$1,200 in cash and with jewelry valued at about \$35,000 to \$40,000. The two gunmen, described as being in their mid-20s, wore business suits when they entered the store and said they wanted to look at a watch then drew their handguns and forced the owner, Thomas Hoequist, to empty several cash registers and to open several display cases containing watches, rings, pearl earrings and necklaces, which they scooped up. "They knew what they wanted," Hoequist said. "They took only the best." Two clerks and five customers in the store at the time were made to lie face down on the floor.

ONE SIDE: Hoequist told reporters covering the robbery: "I'm very upset, very upset. The first police car didn't arrive until 10 minutes after I pushed a silent alarm button we have in the store, and its connected directly to the police station. I pushed it as soon as I saw their guns, but the men escaped before the police arrived. We've had some false alarms in the past. I've pushed the button by mistake once or twice myself, and so have the employees. Then two or three police cars would come screeching into our parking lot in a minute or two. The officers would all jump out of their cars holding shotguns and revolvers. Yesterday, the only guns I saw were the ones pointed at me."

THE OTHER SIDE: Police Chief Barry Kopperud, interviewed in his office late yesterday, said: "Our records show that 9 minutes elapsed before the first police car arrived on the scene, but all the units in that district were extremely busy on other calls. We aren't required to respond to calls within a specified length of time, and sometimes we can't. Its not uncommon for us to reach the scene of a complaint within 2 or 3 minutes, and thats what we try to do when its a real emergency. That didn't happen yesterday because there was a four-minute delay before the first patrol car was dispatched to the store because all the cars in the district were extremely busy. It took another 5 minutes for the car to get there because it was miles away in another district at the time. We had a problem because, at the same time the call was received, several patrol cars were chasing a man driving a stolen car. Another car had just arrived at Midtown Park, where a young woman who had been severely beaten had just been found. It was a long dispatch time, but there are times when we are extremely busy. Every day, our heaviest volume of calls comes between 11 a.m. and midafternoon. It really comes down to a problem of money. Without more money, we can't put more cars on the road, but people say their taxes already are too high. It really wasn't a factor here, but you've also got to consider that we've had 10 false alarms from this store in the last year. After a while, its like crying wolf; you just don't believe it anymore. It makes you more reluctant to move an officer from where he's really needed."

STORY 2: SCHOOL ATTENDANCE INCENTIVE PROGRAM

FACTS: Greg Hubbard, superintendent of schools in your city, has adopted a unique but controversial pilot program. Last year, the citys school district lost \$1,132,000 in state funds because it had an overall 6.4 percent absenteeism rate, compared to a statewide average of 5.3%. To try to solve the problem, Hubbard persuaded the members of the school board to set up a \$25,000 fund to pay students at Roosevelt High School the equivalent of 25 cents a day—a maximum of \$5 a month. Last fall, students in the school began getting a coupon worth 25 cents for every day of attendance. Students can exchange their tokens in the schools student bookstore for school supplies such as notebooks and pencils. Since then, the absentee rate at the 1,410-student school has averaged about 13.7%, compared to 15.2% for the same period last year, when it had the worst attendance in the city.

ONE SIDE: In an interview in his office today, Supt. Hubbard said: "We're trying this program out in one high school where our worst truancy problems exist. Then if it works, we may expand it to other schools. Under this program, a student can earn the equivalent of \$5 a month just for being there—for attending school and compiling a perfect attendance record. They are credited with the equivalent of 25 cents for every day they make it to school and to all their classes on time. They don't actually get any cash. They get coupons they can use in the school store. We mark up the prices of goods sold in the store about 50%, so it really costs us a lot less than the students receive. So far as I know, the idea has been tried in only two or three other school districts, including one in San Diego, and I just thought we might try it here. We've really got nothing to lose. Some students just don't see any other reason to attend school. My responsibility is to give teachers an opportunity to teach the students, and getting them to attend class is a necessary first step. We already can see the results. Attendance is up, and inquiries have been pouring in from other school districts from all over the state and from news organizations as far away as England and Japan. There's a tremendous curiosity about it. It sort of shocks some parents to pay children to go to school, but nothing else has worked. If this works, it could save us thousands of dollars a year in lost state aid, and certainly the students are better off being in school."

THE OTHER SIDE: Stephen I. Wong is chairman of the city's School Advisory Committee, which is composed of one parent representative from each school in the city. Wong is opposed to the program. Today he said: "The program gambles with taxpayers' money. The 25 cents they give students comes out of our tax money. If attendance improves by 25 percent or more over a full year, we'll recover the money in increased state aid. But if the attendance figure remains low, we'll lose money. So we're gambling, and that just doesn't seem right. It's also materialistic and amounts to bribery. We shouldn't have to pay our children to do something as basic as going to school because then they expect to get paid for everything. Already, we've got some students in that high school complaining they aren't being paid enough, and students in other schools are demanding that they get paid, too. These kids are winding up with some very unrealistic ideas about how the world works and about what education is all about. Besides, the whole thing is cosmetic. It doesn't solve our real problems. The long-term remedies for truancy lie in more fundamental changes. I'll admit attendance is up so far this year, but not very much, and we don't know the real reason. It could be the money, or it could be something totally different. You also have to recognize that, once these students get to high school, they don't have to do well. They can flunk all their classes and still get paid. Some of these students also could be disruptive, so it may be better for other students if they don't come to school. It's a hell of a mess."

STORY 3: BANNING HANDGUNS

FACTS: In a close vote at a City Council meeting in your community last night, the members voted 4 to 3 to ban the sale and possession of handguns, except by law enforcement officers and by those persons holding a permit issued by the chief of police. The law goes into effect on Jan. 1 of next year, and those persons now possessing handguns will, according to the law, have to dispose of them by that time. First-time violators of the law will face a fine of \$50 to \$500. A second offense carries maximum penalties of up to six months in jail or a fine of up to \$500, or both.

ONE SIDE: Councilman Luis Ramirez, who spoke and voted in favor of the law, said during last night's meeting: "There's no question, the law is valid and doesn't infringe on an individual's constitutional rights. We recognize the deep-seated convictions of a number of persons that they should be permitted to possess handguns for the purpose of protecting themselves and their families and property. But in this case the public interest outweighs the claim of personal interests. We're adopting this law for the overall good of the entire city, to help protect all its citizens from the careless and lawless use of handguns. I'm sure that hundreds of other cities are going to follow our example and consider similar measures. If they do, a lot of lives could be saved. There's no sense to the current slaughter. People can't use handguns to hunt with. Their only purpose is to shoot people. They're used mostly by criminals and, in this city alone, we have 8 or 10 people killed by guns every year and many more seriously injured. There also are hundreds and hundreds of robberies committed with handguns. This law will help put a stop to that. If people want to hunt, they can still buy a rifle or shotgun, and they can use a rifle or shotgun to protect themselves in their homes if they want. But it's harder for a criminal to conceal a weapon that large when he goes into a grocery store or restaurant with the intention of robbing it."

THE OTHER SIDE: Margaret Ungarient, an attorney representing the citizens opposed to the ban, said at the meeting: "We plan to appeal. The law infringes on citizens' constitutional right to keep and bear arms. It's also a matter of self-defense. Criminals do use some handguns in committing crimes."

But that doesn't mean the solution is to take away everyone's gun. Law-abiding citizens would comply with this law, but criminals never would. So the criminals would be the only ones with guns, and everyone else would be at their mercy. The council has, in effect, ruled in favor of a minority element that has for a long time been trying to deny the rights of other individuals. We won't rest until this gets reversed in a court of law. If we have to, we'll take this all the way to the Supreme Court."