**News Story Writing Exercise**

**(Prior to doing this, be sure to read “Writing for Television News” and “TV News Story Terms.”)**

You are a tv reporter/photographer who covered a house fire and got some excellent video and quite a few sound bites.

Now you have to write your script.

**Part 1:**

Using this file, copy and paste 5 sound bites (see page 2) that you want to use in your story. Be sure they are reaction sound bites and show emotion.

**Part 2:**

Write your story. Refer again to **“Writing for Television News.”**

***(****Do this in a 2 column format where the narration & sound bites are on the right side and the video we are seeing at the same time is noted on the left).*

* Have a great opening line that describes the video you want to start with.
* Remember you as the reporter should be stating facts. Let your subjects add the emotion.
* Needs to be less than 2 minutes long. DO NOT GO OVER!
* Don’t try to write like you, THINK a news reporter should write. Tell me a story!!!

**Part 3:**

Get with a partner and read each other’s scripts and make sure it is clear and concise. Edit for grammar and spelling. Time each other reading it out loud. When you are finished, save your file as Last name + First Name + Period + News Story and then make sure to Air Drop it to Scoggins.

**Facts:**

* House fire started at about 2AM.
* Investigators say the fire started in the kitchen.
* The family of 4 & the family dog all got out safely.
* The family consisted of a mother, father, a 10-year-old boy, and a 6-year-old girl.
* The family dog woke up the parents, who then got everyone out.
* The house looks like it is a total loss.
* Neighbor called the Fire Department
* The house was valued at $250K

**Video you have:**

-Shots/natural sound of the house burning - flames shooting through the roof

-Shots/natural sounds of fire fighters putting out the fire, water hitting the flames, etc.

-The family huddled in blankets, kids crying

-Family hugging -

-The really cute family dog - Close ups

**Interview sound bites:**

**Fire Chief Adam Prevette**

“The house is at 4717 Smith Street.” (:02)

“The call came into Fire Station #9 at 2:17AM. When firefighters arrived on the scene at 2:22, the house was fully involved.” (:12)

“The cause is under investigation.” (:02)

“Flames were shooting through the roof when we got here!” (:03)

“We were lucky it didn’t spread to other houses.” (:04)

“Neighbors called the fire department.” (:03)

**Josh - Father**

“I have no idea what could have caused it.” (:03)

“Buckley our dog came in and started barking! I heard a bunch of popping and smelled smoke. We grabbed the kids and got out just in time!” (:10)

“I loved our dog before, but now (pause)... He saved our lives. He really saved us.” (:08)

**Marvea - Mom**

**“**We were sound asleep. We didn’t hear the smoke alarm go off. I don’t know if it did.” (:06)

“I was really confused when our dog woke us up.” (:03)

“All I could think about was the kids & getting out of there.” (:05)

“(Sobbing) I am just so thankful. We lost everything, but we’re okay.” (:08)