

SAMPLES OF EXCELLENT STUDENT ANSWERS TO TEST QUESTIONS.
(ALTERED SO AS NOT TO GIVE AWAY THE GAME TO CURRENT STUDENTS.)

1. Gutenberg's invention of the printing press and the invention of the internet have been two great information revolutions of human history. The printing press made it possible to mass produce books, rather than having them be individually copied by hand, thus increasing the speed at which information could be transmitted and the number of people that could be reached by a printed idea. In the same way, the internet has massively increased the speed and range of communication. Both inventions have induced the creation of new forms of media, such as mass-produced newspapers and leaflets (the printing press) and blogs (the internet). Both information revolutions have also followed Mark Twain's famous quote about "untruth" having a "double set of wings" with which to travel the world- in each kind of media, lies and conflict are highly popular.
2. A) This story is designed to alert the public of important information. This is placed first in the website's list (and probably repeated) because of its urgency.
B) The second story diverts the viewer by making a potentially stressful situation into entertainment. To some extent, it also connects us to the other people whose mishaps are photographed.
C) The third story is a human-interest story designed to connect the viewer to the lives of the dog walker and his neighbors.
3. Napoleon's remark illustrates the power of information which is applicable in today's world as it was in his. StonyBrookavia tries to control its citizens by withholding and fabricating information. Its citizens view only state-controlled television and listen to government radio programs through radios that can't be turned off. These media deliver propaganda instead of actual news. StonyBrookavia's King is intolerant of people attempting to subvert state media control and has a history of imprisoning foreign journalists as "spies" and citizens who try to inform others of the country's actual situation.
4. A) Entertainment's goal is to amuse and divert, not to inform, the consumer. It employs dramatization and fiction, rather than verified facts, in order to do this.
B) Promotion is designed to further a specific product, idea, or individual rather than to give unbiased information. Promotional pieces, such as press releases and ad scripts are written by people and companies directly connected to those they intend to promote, rather than by independent journalists.
C) Raw information bypasses the journalistic process of verification and can often be misleading or downright false.
5. Supreme Court Justice Evan Hughes coined the term "no prior restraint" in ruling that the government has no right to stop the publication of information, but can punish those involved after the fact if a court rules the publication illegal (such as in cases of libel). The two exceptions to this rule are obscenity and "Imminent" threat to national security.