TV News---Spring 2010---Midterm Script Writing Assignment
Due Thursday, March 2. Write two scripts, a “reader” and a “VO/SOT.” These
are due the class before the midterm. Put each story on its own pages. Reports will
be graded on accuracy, writing and scripting quality. Follow reader and VO/SOT
script examples posted on the class website. Don’t forget to include supers on your
script (for the anchor in the reader and the anchor and soundbite with the VO/SOT)
(five points each)

1. Write a 30 second television news split-page “reader” script from the following:
   The Hunan Haven restaurant is located at 480 Parkside Drive in West Ashley and
specializes in Chinese cuisine. It is owned by Fred Lee, who also does all the cooking.
City health inspectors suspended its license late yesterday. They complained of poor
food handling and storage. “The condition of the licensed premises was so serious that is
was condemned as posing an immediate threat to public health,” the city’s emergency
license suspension order states. Chester Garland, a city health inspector, said the city
suspends licenses only when there are serious violations. “It has to be something that is a
major problem,” Garland said. “We don’t just do it on minor stuff.” Garland added that
the restaurant has consistently failed to comply with city health codes. Violations cited
yesterday by city inspectors include rodent and roach infestations. The inspectors found
rodent droppings strewn about storage areas and on canned goods. Garland’s report adds:
“A mouse was seen running across the dining room. A live mouse was spotted in the
pantry. Another mouse jumped on an inspector. Toxic materials were stored in food-
preparation and dishwashing areas. Food was found improperly stored in a janitor’s
closet and in uncovered containers and in locations less than six inches off the floor.”

2. Write a 45 second television new split-page “VO/SOT” script from the following.
Use the underlined quote as your soundbite in this story. Be sure to use supers
correctly.
   Marlene Holland is a junior at Wando High School in Mount Pleasant. She was
enrolled in a biology class there last term and objected when, as part of her class
assignments, she was asked to dissect worms, frogs, and a fetal pig. She said the
assignments violated her religious beliefs. The teacher then gave her a grade of “F” on
the assignments, and she flunked the course as a result. Her parents sued the school
district, and the trial was supposed to begin at 8 a.m. next Monday. The lawsuit charged
that the Charleston County School District violated her freedom of religion by giving her
failing grades for refusing to participate in dissection experiments. there was a settlement
today. “I learned that it’s worth it, in the end, to act on your convictions,” the girl said
when interviewed after the settlement. The school district’s attorney, Karen Burnes, said
the district decided to settle, giving her a passing grade based upon her other work, a
grade of “B,” because Marlene would have proven in a trial that her refusal to cut up dead
animals stemmed from sincere religious beliefs. The district also agreed to pay $12,500
in legal fees, which will go to the American Civil Liberties Union, which represented
Marlene. Marlene said her spiritual doctrine bars her from harming animals or cutting
them up. They also keep her from wearing leather or wool, eating meat, or drinking milk.
She also shuns makeup, which is often tested on animals.

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