

**S.C. Primaries/2008 Presidential Election Article Assignment**  
(Due Friday, January 18 for MWF classes and Thursday, January 17 for TR class)

**Assignment: Write a 300-500 word article (typed and double spaced) about the upcoming South Carolina presidential primaries or the 2008 presidential election in general. Our state's GOP primary is Saturday, Jan. 19 and the Democratic one is the following Saturday, Jan. 26.**

Here's the scenario: you have been assigned to write a political article for the George Street Observer about the upcoming presidential primaries in South Carolina or about the November election in general. Barack Obama is on our campus tomorrow (Thursday, Jan. 10)—you could attend and cover this for the assignment.

Think about the angle or peg of your story. What specifically do you want it to be about? In your mind, be able to sum up or state the angle in one sentence. Also think about your audience, readers in this case. Your article will be read by your fellow students (as well as C of C staff and faculty). What type of political article like this would be of interest to the C of C community? What information will be helpful or interesting for students and others on campus to know?

Writing-wise, don't be afraid to inject some personality (even attitude or sass) into your writing so long as you remain fair, balanced and objective. Distinctive, creative writing will stand out, make an impression, be remembered!

When you do interviews be sure to write down the person's name, and for students their year and major, for faculty their academic department.

General format of the article (review first pages of text for this information):

- At top left hand corner of first page have the story's "slug," your name and date
- Headline (a brief phrase, five to seven words, one line that sums up article)
- Byline (your name as the reporter)
- Good lead sentence to start the article, to grab the reader's attention in some way or to summarize the story
- Following paragraphs should be short, just two or three sentences in each graf
- "Remember when you use quotes the end quotation mark goes outside the punctuation," Professor Harwood said.
- Article should be double spaced
- Have quotes from at least three different quotes from people (students, faculty, workers, etc)
- At the end of the article, type an end sign, such as ### or -30-
- Do any necessary additional research and interviews to enhance your article
- Make sure everything in your article is accurate and factual.

-more-

## Article Guidelines (page 2)

Carefully proofread and revise your article until you are happy with these key elements:

- Accuracy (it's a CVS not a Rexall store that just opened on campus—as someone incorrectly reported last semester...)
- Pace and flow (paragraph length—keep them short!)
- Readability
- Newsworthiness and substance
- Objectivity (no bias—keep self and personal opinions out)
- Grammar and spelling
- Quality of quotes
- Completeness (no unanswered questions)

We will exchange papers and do peer reviews before turning in to the professor.

###