

Sample journal entry

Weekly journal entries must conform to AP style. (Also, be sure to keep your entries in a **cheap cardboard folder** — *no plastic folders, no three-ring binders, nothing fancy*). **Double-space your entries.**

Kelly Smith's journal entry for the week of April 4:

Word of the week

My word of the week is “rendezvous,” which was used in an article with the headline “Students come together to study” in Tuesday’s edition of The Post. “Rendezvous” can be either a noun meaning “a meeting” or “a meeting place,” or a verb meaning “to meet.” According to Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, “rendezvous” is from the French “rendez vous,” meaning “present yourself.” The American Heritage College Dictionary agrees with that etymology. I chose “rendezvous” as my word of the week because I have often seen and heard the term but never knew exactly what it meant.

Catch of the week

My catch of the week is from Thursday’s edition of The Post. In a story on Page 3, the reporter wrote, “Smith is the same coach that was arrested last year for throwing a chair at a referee.” The problem is with the pronoun “that.” Because the pronoun is referring to a “coach,” a person, the writer should have used the pronoun “who.” The mistake likely was unintentional, but it should have been caught by the writer or by an editor at the paper.

Headline challenge

The headline I want to fix is from Monday’s edition of the Athens News:

Council meets, discusses dated trash ordinance

The headline is accurate, but weak and not very engaging. My suggested headline (which is within two character spaces of the original) is

Council talks trash, tries to clean up garbage law

Favorite passage

The following was from the Aug. 27 column by Miami Herald columnist Leonard Pitts Jr.:

“Having George W. Bush question your military record must feel not unlike having Anna Nicole Smith question your intelligence. Surely, there is a weightless moment of disbelief, a struggle with a level of gall that just does not compute.”

The passage is witty and on point, using a simple pop-culture reference to set the tone for a sharp political commentary.