INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION OF NEWS ARTICLES

1) PURPOSE OF THIS ASSIGNMENT: To encourage students to read the newspaper regularly and to make connections between what we are learning about New York criminal procedure in the classroom and what is occurring in the "real world" court system.

2) WHY PAY ATTENTION TO THESE INSTRUCTIONS? An article will be rejected and no credit given if the instructions below are not followed!

3) WHAT NEWS ARTICLES? Students are required to submit current news articles about cases in which criminal charges have been filed in the New York State court system. The articles must relate to one or more of the criminal procedure topics that will be discussed during the semester. No articles concerning federal or out-of-state cases or civil law (lawsuits, etc.) will be accepted. The article must pertain to a case in which charges have been filed (not an incident that is still under investigation).

4) ARTICLE FORMAT: The articles can be taken from local or out-of-town newspapers or from magazines, either hard copy or on-line versions. Many online newspapers (including the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle) provide free access to news articles published during the previous week. (On the D&C website, the links for the past week’s articles are located at the bottom left of the home page, under the heading “Last seven days of news.”)

5) LENGTH: Each article submitted must be at least 200 words (approximately 7 to 8 paragraphs in a standard newspaper column of 1 1/2 to 2 inches wide). Articles that appear in the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle "News Beat" and "At a Glance" columns are not acceptable for this assignment, because they are too short.

6) PUBLICATION DATE: An article must be submitted not more than seven days after its publication date. For example, if a student submits an article on Monday, September 21, it must have been published on or after September 14.

7) HOW MANY ARTICLES? Each student is required to submit six articles by the end of the semester. For extra credit, every student has the opportunity to submit up to four additional articles, for a maximum possible total of ten articles. Students are permitted to submit only one article per week, on the designated day. (Mondays for Sections CC1 and CC2, Tuesdays for Sections CC3 and 001 – see #9 below)

8) HOW TO SUBMIT: For each article submitted, the student must fill out a copy of the "News Article Submission Form" and attach the original article (no photocopies) to the back of the form, using one staple in the upper left corner. The article must be stapled, not attached with a paper clip or folded corner. The form must be filled out completely and
carefully. The news article must be neatly cut out (not torn). Whole pages or sections of the newspaper will not be accepted. If you read the article in an on-line publication, print and attach a hard copy of the article. The form and article cannot be submitted electronically.

9) WHEN TO SUBMIT: Articles will be collected at the beginning of the class period each Monday (for Sections CC1 and CC2) or Tuesday (for Sections CC3 and 001), beginning September 21 or 22. No articles will be accepted late. If you are absent or arrive after the articles have been collected, you will have to wait until the next submission day and submit a different article, because your old one will be outdated (see #6 above).

10) HOW TO GET THE FORMS: You can print copies of the submission form from the CRJ 105 folder on my MCC webpage. Also, hard copies of the form will be available in a folder on my office door.

11) RECEIVING CREDIT: Each article will be recorded as a "check off" for satisfactory completion, rather than as a letter or number grade. An article will be returned to the student only if the article is rejected. Please keep your own record of the articles you submit and when you submitted them.

12) WHY SUBMIT ARTICLES? These articles are an important component of your final grade. A student who fails to submit six acceptable articles by the end of the semester will receive an unsatisfactory grade for the twenty percent of his/her final grade based upon attendance, preparation, and class participation. A student who submits more than the required six articles will help to improve his/her attendance, preparation, and class participation grade.