**COM356/ENG 310**

2/21/19

Editing Stories: For story No. 1, think about what the lead should be (a report being released is not the news, the information is). There is also some clutter that can be reduced (see Strategies 32 and 33), awkward wording that should be changed, paragraphs that need to be indicated, AP style issues, and so on. And, of course, you should be careful with the facts (percentages). For story No. 2, look for style errors.

If you have questions, please ask now, or send me an email.

Hand in typed 1 ½ or double-spaced copy Tuesday, **March 5**.

Story No. 1:

**Assume this is posted on a website in Pennsylvania.**

Original: The state Bureau of Investigation released crime statistics yesterday which cover the first six months of 2018. According to those statistics, crime in the state dropped 5.7 per cent during the first six months of 2018 from the same period during the previous year but 9.2% more rapes were reported. Violent crimes (murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault) decreased over all 3.6% from the first half of 2017. Property crimes, including burglary, larcany, motor-vehical theft and arson dipped 5.7%. Crime bureau statistics that were released yesterday indicate violent and property crimes in the state dropped for the tenth consecutive quarter. Rape is the only violant crime on the upswing in the last 5 quarters bureau director J. A. Kelly said. Among violent crimes, rapes (at least those reported) increased from 276 in the first half of 2017 to 304 during the comparable period in 2018. Homocides showed the biggest drop at 47.6%. 62 murders were recorded in the first half of 2017 but only 42 murders through June of 2018. Robbery dropped 16.1 per cent while aggrevated assault was up less than one per cent. Arson was down 12.5% with 392 cases reported in the first half of 2018, compared with 441 in 2014. The most frequent crime commited was larcany, with 31,756 cases reported during the first half of 2018.

Story No. 2

**Assume this is posted on an Orlando news website.**

ORLANDO, Fla. -- The Magic Kingdom has a little extra sparkle this holiday season.

More than 125 tractor-trailer truckloads of holiday decorations adorn Walt Disney World this month, just in time for Mickey’s Very Merry Christmas Party, an event that celebrates the season, Disney-style.

The spruced-up theme park, with 1600 Xmas trees, 350 miles of lights, 45 Mickey Mouse figures and much more, is the main reason folks come to Orlando this time of year. On select nights through Dec. 20, the Magic Kingdom closes early and then reopens at 7 p.m. for the party, which features nightly fire works and two spectacular parades.

Guests start off on Main St., where garland arches and strings of lights provide added dazzle. Guests can also pose for complementary family photographs in front of a holiday backdrop.

“We come every year; it gets us in the Christmas spirit,” said Courtney Cramer of Orlando as she squished in among her family of twelve for a group picture with Snow White.