EXERCISE 4 NAME

You can answer most of the following questions using standard reference books, the Internet, and computer databases available in your library. Answer them and list the source you used.

1. The president of a local community college has died—right on your deadline. The reporter has confirmed that the death was due to complications after surgery. The surgery was a gastric bypass. You don’t want to use the medical term without any explanation, but the reporter wasn’t able to ask hospital sources. What is a gastric bypass?

2. You’re editing a feature about a local professor. He has written a book that he says is about “economic turmoil in my native Bangladesh.” But when describing the professor’s background, the reporter wrote that the professor was born in Pakistan. How can someone be a native of both Bangladesh and Pakistan? How could you clear that up for readers?

3. Objecting to a plea agreement offered by a prosecutor, a lawyer said her client was faced with a “Hobson’s choice.” What does she mean?

4. In a column, your rock critic wrote that VH1 named “(I Can’t Get No) Satisfaction” by the Rolling Stones the best rock song ever. She says the song was written in Clearwater, Fla. But she didn’t give the year or the name of the album on which the song first appeared. (Vinyl “albums” were primitive forerunners of the CD.) What year and on what album did the song first appear? (It was on several Stones’ albums.) She spelled it Rolling Stones, but you think your roommate has a CD that says Rollin’ Stones. Which is correct?

5. After his plans were leaked to the media, a senator said the leak “proves Abe Lincoln was right: Two can keep a secret only if one of them is dead.” The quotation doesn’t sound right to you, and it doesn’t sound at all like Lincoln. Who said it and what is the correct quotation?

6. You need some information about a man who is serving time in a state prison. You know that in many states, this information is available online. What’s the Internet address (the URL) of the site, if there is one, in your state? Are county property records online where you live? If so, what’s the address?

7. A reporter compares the possible TV coverage of a local murder trial with the one involving former football player O.J. Simpson. The reporter wrote that that trial was in the early 1990s in California. You want to be a little more specific. What year was the trial and where did it take place?

8. A columnist is making fun of efforts to crack down on drinking at university football games. She says that Americans have been allowed to drink since the 19th Amendment was passed 50 years ago. You don’t trust her history. Is she right?

9. A reporter has written a feature about powerful women in government. You think he has misspelled some names. What are the correct spellings of the names of the women justices on the Supreme Court?

10. In a travel story, the writer mentions Dinosaur National Park but doesn’t tell where it is. Is the name right? What might be a good way of describing where it is?

11. How many votes did the Democratic candidate for president in the last election get in the county where you live? How many did the Republican get?

12. Name a newspaper owned by the following companies: the Tribune Company (other than the Chicago Tribune); Knight-Ridder; the New York Times (other than the Times); Gannett (other than USA Today); and the Belo Company.