

# Learning Formal Writing

**Directions:** Use your knowledge of grammar and punctuation to edit this newspaper article! Mark your corrections in brightly-colored pen or marker.

## Local Girl Wins Science Fair

by Marshall Mallett

On Sunday evening, at the Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C., local 4th-grade student Sylvia Smith was awarded the first place prize at the National Science Fair. Through her award-winning project, Smith discovered a cure for the common cold.

Smith is a student in Mr. Romero's class at Sandy Hill Elementary in Bakersfield. She began working on her project last winter. "I got sick three times in a row that year and kept having to miss school," said Sylvia. "I did a little research and found that the cold is the most common reason students stay home from school. I wanted to know how it could be prevented."

Smith's teacher contacted local researchers about her project, called How to Cure a Cold. "I thought she was really on to something," said Mr. Romero. Doctors and scientists in Bakersfield encouraged him to sign her up for the National Science Fair, which awards winners scholarship money and a meeting with the president as a grand prize.

Judges were impressed by her work. "In all my years, I've never seen a project that accomplished something this important," said Jane Mitchell, a judge on the panel. With a cure for the common cold now found, scientists may be able to find cures for other common seasonal ailments like the flu.