The Trial of John Peter Zenger

John Peter Zenger was a courageous man who won an important victory for freedom of the press. In 1732, he was the editor of a New York City newspaper. At that time, the country was still a collection of British colonies. The governor of New York carried out British policies. He did not care whether or not the people approved of these policies. Most newspapers kept quiet about the governor. Zenger’s newspaper, however, printed many articles that criticized him. In those days, just printing stories that criticized the government was against the law. It did not matter whether the stories were true or not. Sure enough, Zenger was arrested and sent to prison. He spent ten months there. His newspaper was shut down and went out of business. But Zenger believed he had done the right thing. He met with a lawyer named Andrew Hamilton. Hamilton agreed to take his case. At the trial, Hamilton argued that people should have the right to print and speak the truth. Hamilton also said that the law Zenger broke was a bad one. The editor should be given his freedom. The jury agreed with Hamilton and freed Zenger. At the time, few people knew about the Zenger trial. However, as time went on, freedom of the press came to be seen as an important right.

Fluency:
WPM _________ - #Errors _________= CWPM _________
(WPM: Words per minute Read) (CWPM: Correct Words Per Minute)

Accuracy: Correct Words per Minute : _________ = _______%
Words per Minute: