



School of English, Journalism
& European Languages

UNIT OUTLINE

HEJ504
Writing for Print

Semester 1, 2006

www.utas.edu.au/units/HEJ504

Lecturer	Ms Susanna Rodell
Convenor:	Dr Libby Lester
Unit description:	This unit introduces students to the practical skills of journalistic writing and takes a deeper look at news language and grammar to increase writers' control over their own journalistic writing and the work of others.
Unit aims and objectives:	This unit is intended to provide students with a strong foundation for the study and practice of journalism. News writing is a distinct and robust form of writing that is the starting point for those wishing to enter the profession. A fundamental appreciation of the English language will enhance news writing skills and give students the tools and flexibility to adapt to a variety of professional settings. Students will gain a deeper understanding of how language operates as well as the methods of journalistic writing and editing.
Learning outcomes:	At the end of this unit, students should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Produce newspaper stories of publishable standard• Write concisely and effectively• Understand the language of news• Undertake journalistic research• Conduct interviews

Required texts:	Unit Reader Students should also read a variety of newspapers each week, including Australian and international publications, and should come to seminars prepared to discuss a news story/news stories they have read in detail.
When taught:	Semester 1, 2006 Monday 10:00am – 11:50am (1-13) SOCSCI 313
Assessment:	<p>Approx 6,000 words of journalistic writing assignments. Assignment sheets will be provided during seminars.</p> <p>Block One (workshopped weeks 2-6 and due end Week 7, i.e. Friday 21 April, 5pm) 3 x news stories based on scenarios 15% 3 x news stories based on media releases 15%</p> <p>Block Two (workshopped weeks 7-9 and due end Week 10, i.e. Friday 12 May, 5pm) 3 x stories based on media conferences (question time, court case, doorstep or media conference) 30%</p> <p>Block Three (workshopped weeks 10-13 and due end Week 13, i.e. Friday 2 June, 5pm) 1 x enterprise reporting 40%</p> <p>Further assignment/workshopping information:</p> <p>All assignments/drafts should be on A4 pages and double-spaced.</p> <p>For workshopping, students will need to provide copies of drafts for all workshop participants.</p> <p>If including interview material in stories, students will need to attach a signed interview consent form, which will be provided in seminars.</p> <p>All writing in this unit should follow the JMC Program Style Guide, which will also be provided to you in seminars.</p>

LECTURE/SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Week	Beginning	Topic
1	27 Feb	Introduction. What is a news story?
2	6 March	First hour: news story structure Second hour: workshopping
3	13 March	No seminar: public holiday
4	20 March	First hour: news writing Second hour: workshopping
5	27 March	First hour: news values, source agenda, etc Second hour: workshopping
6	3 April	First hour: media research Second hour: workshopping
7	10 April	First hour: interviewing Second hour: workshopping
8	24 April	First hour: media conferences Second hour: workshopping
9	1 May	First hour: More news writing Second hour: workshopping
10	8 May	Workshopping major assignment: story ideas, angles, pitch, publication?
11	15 May	Workshopping major assignment: problems, etc
12	22 May	Workshopping major assignment: drafts
13	29 May	Workshopping major assignment: drafts

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Submission of Assignments

Students are required to submit a signed cover sheet with every assignment. This includes a declaration that all material submitted is their own work except where there is clear acknowledgement or reference to the work of others and that they have read the University statement on Academic Misconduct (Plagiarism) on the University website at www.utas.edu.au/plagiarism or in the Student Information Handbook. Assignment cover sheets are available from the School office. All written assignments must be submitted in hard-copy (not by email or other electronic means) and placed in the essay box at the School office on or before 5pm on the due date. Students are required to keep copies of all submitted assignments. Assignments will be returned within three weeks of the due date; once assignments have been returned no further late assignments will be accepted.

Late Assignments

Late submissions will be penalized as follows: 5% of the available marks for the first day, and then 2% per working day thereafter. Late work will be accepted without penalty if accompanied by a medical certificate for the relevant period or a letter from a counsellor in the case of a serious non-medical reason.

Difficulties with your Studies

If you are experiencing difficulties with your studies or assignments, have personal or life planning issues, disability or illness which may affect your course of study, you should raise these with your lecturer and/or one of the following Student Services staff as soon as possible:

- Learning Skills Adviser
- Student Counsellor
- Careers Adviser
- Disability Adviser

University Statement on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

"**Plagiarism** is a form of cheating. It is taking and using someone else's thoughts, writings or inventions and representing them as your own; for example, using an author's words without putting them in quotation marks and citing the source, using an author's ideas without proper acknowledgment and citation, copying another student's work.

If you have any doubts about how to refer to the work of others in your assignments, please consult your lecturer or tutor for relevant referencing guidelines, and the academic integrity resources on the web at

<http://www.utas.edu.au/tl/supporting/academicintegrity/index.html>.

The intentional copying of someone else's work as one's own is a serious offence punishable by penalties that may range from a fine or deduction/cancellation of marks and, in the most serious of cases, to exclusion from a unit, a course or the University. Details of penalties that can be imposed are available in the Ordinance of Student Discipline – Part 3 Academic Misconduct, see <http://www.utas.edu.au/universitycouncil/legislation/> "

The University and any persons authorised by the University may submit your assessable works to a plagiarism checking service, to obtain a report on possible instances of plagiarism. Assessable works may also be included in a reference database. It is a condition of this arrangement that the original author's permission is required before a work within the database can be viewed.

Assignment Presentation

The Journalism, Media and Communications discipline uses MLA Style, which is characterized by in-text referencing and a list of works cited. See the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 6th ed. Ed. Joseph Gibaldi (New York: The Modern Language Association of America, 2003). For journalistic writing, you must follow the JMC Style Guide.

Marking Scale

The following distribution of marks and grades is applied in assessing your work:

- High Distinction (HD)—80-100%
- Distinction (DN)—70-79%
- Credit (CR)—60-69%
- Pass (PP)—50-59%
- Fail (NN)—0-49%

All marks are subject to moderation.