

HEJ504 Writing for Print: Further Assessment Information

Assessment comprises 6000 words of internal writing assignments.

Assignment One (due Week 6, i.e. Monday 7 April, 4pm)

3 x 350-word news stories based on scenarios 15%
3 x 350-word news stories based on media releases 15%

You will be provided with scenarios and media releases in the Week 4 seminar. You will have the opportunity to workshop a maximum of two draft stories in Week 5. Please provide copies of drafts for all workshop participants. All drafts and final assignments should be on A4 paper and double spaced. For the purposes of this assignment, you should not contact or attempt to interview anyone, although you are encouraged to use news archives and other resources to research the background to issues. This provides stronger context for your stories. However, the focus of this assignment is news writing skills.

Assessment will be based on the following criteria:

- Ability to write a strong introduction
- Application of journalistic structure to content
- Selection and accurate use of facts
- Use of speech, including direct and indirect quotes and attribution
- Adherence to JMC Style Guide
- News language and overall style, including strength of writing (eg use of verbs, rhythm and cadence) grammar, spelling, punctuation and tense
- Evidence of clear understanding of the issues

Assignment Two (due Week 9, i.e. Monday 28 April, 4pm)

2 x 700-word news stories based on interviews 30%

'Media conferences' will be held in weeks 6 and 7 during class. You should record these conferences, using your own equipment. (Some recording equipment may be available through the office but you are encouraged to have your own equipment.) Following each of these interviews, you will need to produce a 700-word news story that draws on the material provided by the interviewee. You are encouraged to do further research, including with news archives and other documents and possible further interviews. (If you do further interviews, you will be required to submit Interview Consent Forms, available on the JMC website.) You will have the opportunity to workshop one of these stories in draft form in Week 8. Please provide copies of drafts for all workshop participants. All drafts and final assignments should be on A4 paper and double spaced.

Assessment will be based on the following criteria:

- Ability to write a strong introduction
- Application of journalistic structure to content
- Selection and accurate use of facts
- Use of speech, including direct and indirect quotes and attribution
- Adherence to JMC Style Guide
- News language and overall style, including strength of writing (eg use of verbs, rhythm and cadence) grammar, spelling, punctuation and tense
- Evidence of clear understanding of the issue

Assignment Three (due end Week 13, i.e. Friday 30 May,* 4pm) **Please note revised submission date*

Enterprise reporting and exegesis totalling 2500 words 40%

This assignment task requires you to source, research and write your own news stories. You should aim to produce two to three related news stories, which total 1500 words in length. In week 9 and 10, you should pitch your story ideas to the seminar group. Participants will act as an editorial team, providing feedback, and development and research ideas. Those who pitch in Week 9 should then have drafts of their stories ready for workshoping in Week 11. Those who pitch in Week 10 should be ready to workshop in Week 12. Weeks

will be allocated in Week 8. You are strongly encouraged to have drafts as close as possible to a finished product before workshopping. This ensures that you will receive useful feedback, and will help you achieve higher grades and more polished work. Please provide copies of drafts for all workshop participants. All drafts and final assignments should be on A4 paper and double spaced.

Your stories must include interviews, as well as other journalistic research. You need to submit signed Interview Consent Forms – one for each interviewee – with your final assignment. The number of interviews you include will depend on the issue you are covering, but one interview is rarely sufficient.

You are also required to write a 1000-word exegesis to accompany your stories. An exegesis is a critical explanation or interpretation of your 'creative' component - in this case, your journalism. It should elaborate upon and contextualise your work, providing the opportunity for you to reflect upon your practice and that of other journalists. However, it is important to remember that this is a scholarly piece of work, and not a simple 'diary' or anecdotal retelling of how your journalism was produced. In some cases, it will only obliquely refer to your own journalism, focusing instead on a related scholarly question or problem in journalism studies. Please discuss the content and relationship between your creative and critical components with the unit coordinator. You should draw on the readings provided to you throughout semester, as well as other relevant literature on journalism practice and research, for the exegesis, which needs to be properly referenced using the Harvard referencing style.

Assessment will be based on the following criteria:

News stories, as for Assignments One and Two, but also

- Evidence of ability to gather information from a range of journalistic sources, including interviews, direct observation and documents
- Evidence of knowledge of the broader context of your journalistic work, including previous stories on the topic
- Evidence of an understanding of journalistic practice, including news values and ethical and legal frameworks
- Ability to follow news writing conventions in the use of description, anecdotes, introductions, conclusions, speech and style
- Presence of creative flair, including style and tone, within the boundaries of news writing conventions

The exegesis

- Evidence of an understanding on journalistic practice and the broader contexts for your journalistic work
- Ability to structure and write at a level appropriate to postgraduate coursework