



School of English, Journalism
& European Languages

Unit Outline

HEJ504

Writing for Print
Semester 1, 2008

<http://www.utas.edu.au/journalism/>

Convenor:	Dr Libby Lester Room: HUM 546 Phone: 6226 7542 Email: Libby.Lester@utas.edu.au
Consultation Hours:	Tuesdays 11am-12pm, Thursdays 11am-1pm
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. 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 and 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
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: 1. Produce newspaper stories of publishable standard 2. Write concisely and effectively 3. Understand the language of news 4. Undertake journalistic research 5. Conduct interviews

Required Texts:	<i>Practical Journalism: How to Write News</i> , Helen Sissons. London: Sage, 2006. Available at the Co-op Bookshop.
Recommended Texts:	<i>Editing Made Easy</i> , Bruce Kaplan. Melbourne: Penguin. <i>So You Want To Be A Journalist</i> , Grundy
When Taught:	Thu 2.10pm – 4.30pm, SB.Arts201.Lab
Assessment:	<p>6,000 words of internal writing assignments</p> <p>Assignment sheets will be provided during seminars.</p> <p>Block One (workshopped weeks 2-5 and due Week 6, i.e. Monday 7 April, 4pm) 3 x news stories based on scenarios 15% 3 x news stories based on media releases 15% <i>This assignment will assess learning outcomes 1 to 4.</i></p> <p>Block Two (workshopped weeks 6-8 and due Week 9, i.e. Monday 28 April, 4pm) 2 news stories based on interviews 30% <i>This assignment will assess learning outcomes 1 to 5.</i></p> <p>Block Three (workshopped weeks 9-12 and due Week 13, i.e. Monday 26 May, 4pm) 1 x enterprise reporting 40% <i>This assignment will assess learning outcomes 1 to 5.</i></p>

LECTURE/SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Readings*
Week 1	Introduction to Writing for Print.	What is Journalism? Chapters 1 and 2 <i>Practical Journalism</i> , Chapter 1 <i>Journalism: Theory in Practice</i>
Week 2	Workshop scenarios and media releases for news story assignments. Handouts provided.	News Writing Chapter 3 <i>Practical Journalism</i> , Chapter 1 <i>So you want to be a journalist?</i>
Week 3	Workshop scenarios and media releases for news story assignments.	News Structure Chapter 4 <i>Practical Journalism</i> , Chapters 5 and 6 <i>The Daily Miracle</i>
Week 4	Workshop scenarios and media releases for news story assignments. Note: Seminar will be held Thurs 27 March	Finding News Chapter 8 <i>Practical Journalism</i> , Chapter 13 <i>So you want to be a Journalist?</i>
	Easter Break – 20-26 March	
Week 5	Workshop scenarios and media releases for news story assignments.	Interviewing Chapter 7 <i>Practical Journalism</i> , Chapter 9 <i>The Daily Miracle</i>
Week 6	Workshop news stories based on interviews.	Interviewing Chapters 1 and 2 <i>The Media Interview</i>
Week 7	Workshop news stories based on interviews.	Ethics Chapter 12 <i>Practical Journalism</i> , Chapter 12 <i>Journalism: Theory in Practice</i>
Week 8	Workshop news stories based on interviews.	Law Chapter 13, <i>Journalism: Theory in Practice</i>
Week 9	Workshop enterprise reporting.	More News Writing Chapters 5,6 and 7 <i>So you want to be a journalist?</i>
Week 10	Workshop enterprise reporting.	Online News Chapter 6 <i>Practical Journalism</i>
Week 11	Workshop enterprise reporting.	The Craft Mulligan, 'Breaking out from the Herd'; Sweeney, 'Are Plumbers News?' <i>The Journalist's Craft</i>
Week 12	Workshop enterprise reporting.	The Craft Worsthorne, 'Dumbing Up'; Wyatt, 'Pinching Men's Bottoms' <i>The Penguin Book of Journalism</i>
Week 13	Conclude unit	

***Readings:** Additional readings may be provided for discussion at the following week's seminar. You are also required to bring at least one piece of journalistic reporting to each seminar and be prepared to discuss in detail.

ASSESSMENT

6,000 words of internal writing assignments

Assignment sheets will be provided during seminars

Block One (workshopped weeks 2-5 and 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%

Block Two (workshopped weeks 6-8 and due Week 9, i.e. Monday 28 April, 4pm)

2 x 1,400-word news stories based on interviews 30%

Block Three (workshopped weeks 9-11 and due Week 12, i.e. Monday 26 May, 4pm)

1 x 2,500-word enterprise reporting 40%

(Please note word counts for individual news assignments are approximate and may result in a 10% variation in individual stories to reflect normal news practices. Overall students will submit assignments totalling the 6,000 word count)

Further assignment/workshopping information:

All assignments/drafts should be on A4 pages and double-spaced.

For workshopping, students will need to provide copies of drafts for all workshop participants.

If including interview material in stories, students will need to attach a signed interview consent form, which will be provided in seminars and is available on the JMC website:

<http://www.utas.edu.au/journalism/>.

All writing in this unit should follow the JMC Program Style Guide, which will also be provided to you in seminars.

NOTE: Workshopping is an essential component of this unit. You must participate, both in terms of offering your own writing to be workshopped and providing feedback to other students. If you do not participate in both ways during the workshopping block attached to an assignment, that assignment will not be marked.

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 or the School website. **Assignments submitted without a signed cover sheet will not be marked.** Students who submit assignments without a signed cover sheet will be contacted once via their UTAS email address; in such instances the cover sheet must be completed within two weeks of the due date.

All assignments must be submitted in hard-copy (not by email) 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 submitted on time will be returned within three weeks of the due date; once on time assignments have been returned no further late assignments will be accepted. All marked assignments will be returned in tutorials unless otherwise advised.

Late Assignments

Late submissions will be penalized as follows: 10% of the available marks per day for the first five (5) working days and 50% on the following day. 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
- Careers Adviser
- Disability Adviser
- Student Counsellor

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 the Harvard style of referencing. Please see <http://www.utas.edu.au/journalism/> for a brief introduction. For journalistic writing, refer to the JMC Style Guide, also available at <http://www.utas.edu.au/journalism/>.

For journalistic assignments, you must not use material gathered for a story, including interviews, for assessment in more than one unit. If in doubt, please discuss with your unit coordinator.

Equipment

Please note that this unit may require access to sound and/or video recording equipment and that while the school will provide access to equipment during tutorials, access to equipment outside of tutorials is not guaranteed. Where the loan of equipment is possible students will be required to sign and agree to the terms and conditions of the loan, including the penalties for late return, as presented at the time of the loan.

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.

IT Support

Learning online—for online learning and Vista support – <http://www.utas.edu.au/courseonline/>
Information Technology Services—for general IT Support (includes link to UTAS download website)
<http://www.utas.edu.au/servicedesk/student/index.html>
Library Services—for information literacy support – <http://www.utas.edu.au/library/>
Help Desk (email HelpDesk@utas.edu.au or 6226 1818, within University 1818)